**TRR/STB Template Letter**

Date

Daniel R. Elliott, Chairman

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Request to include \_\_\_\_\_\_ in the review of the proposed Tongue River Railroad

Chairman Elliott and Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

It has come to our attention that the rail line that traverses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which is owned/leased/operated by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, could experience a substantial increase in train traffic from exporting coal from the Powder River Basin to proposed West Coast ports. We understand that the construction of the Tongue River Railroad would contribute significantly to this additional traffic, as it would connect the proposed Otter Creek coal mine to the existing rail line.

Since these additional coal trains would impact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we hereby request that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) consider \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in your Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Tongue River Railroad, and consult with us as the review process moves forward.

We have specific concerns related to increased rail traffic, and believe that it is the responsibility of the STB – as the regulatory agency for the rail system – to step in, and ensure that communities are not forced to bear the costs of expensive infrastructure upgrades to mitigate impacts (e.g. overpasses, underpasses, quiet zones). \_\_\_\_\_\_ lacks adequate funding for these projects, and we strongly believe these costs must be divided fairly between the railroad and taxpayers.

Please consider, and formally include, the City of \_\_\_\_\_ as you move forward in the review process for the Tongue River Railroad.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Cc: Deb Miller, STB Vice Chair

Ann D. Begeman, Board Member

Victoria Rutson, Director, STB Office of Environmental Analysis

ANY STATEWIDE ELECTEDS OF CHOICE (e.g. U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell)