

November 2, 2016  
Mosier

Dear Commissioners

I wanted to write a personal letter to urge to you to support your constituents in denying the permit for railroad expansion throughout the entire city limits of Mosier and into the National Scenic Area.

What the double tracks will do for Mosier?

- Increase RISK by increasing capacity of cargo proven to be explosive.
- Increase RISK by turning the “bottleneck” into a “spillway” with trains timed to pass each other at full speed.
- Increase train noise – already in downtown when a train comes through, you cannot have a conversation, as the noise is too loud.
- Eliminate our loop trail along the south side of Harmony Lake.
- Disturb our wetlands (which are not being mitigated locally!!).
- Make our town unlivable during construction and beyond.
- Decrease economic development along highway 30.
- Decrease our property values.

Already, Mosier has lost our gas station, coffee shop, and convenience store; Our restaurant is sitting empty and our post office is on reduced hours. Potential investors in downtown businesses have walked away since the derailment. We all fear that these double tracks will have severe and lasting consequences for Mosier.

The area of Mosier is defined by a massive geological uplift, which created the syncline of cliffs uplifted on both sides of the river. The area of the derailment has also experienced a major flood and two major fires. Our groundwater near the derailment is still contaminated. Seismic predictions indicate high probability of a major earthquake in the next 30 years. Are you ready to take responsibility for the consequences of derailed oil trains in such an event? In the larger view, when we are dealing with the onslaught of climate change and must shift our energy strategy to stabilize our future, why enable infrastructure development to support an industry that is misguided and not supporting our own survival, when the railroads have no ability to deny the carriage of crude oil?

Pipelines are protested and deemed unsafe, and we all know that pipelines are more safe than crude by rail!!

If we truly have no choice in this matter, then here are some options that would help:

**Track expansion only EAST of Mosier.** This would still give the RR more than 2 miles of tracks to put their unit trains on, enabling trains to pass without devastating consequences to our town.

**Access under or over the tracks at Mosier Creek.** We are cut off from access and the only way to connect the trails are to trespass over the tracks.

**Year round access under the tracks at Rock Creek.** Now we can only access our waterfront seasonally.

**Trains passing each other would reduce speeds to HALF the existing speed (15 mph),** as otherwise a head-on collision at current speed limit (30 mph) would be the equivalent of DOUBLE that speed (60 mph)

**Wetland mitigation LOCALLY,** including restoration of a trail on the south side of Harmony Lake.

**Some effort to reduce NOISE,** as we will be dealing with elevated noise and vibration of two trains timed to PASS each other in front of Mosier.

Bottom line: **ONE TRACK IS ENOUGH!!!!!!**

Until we are able to change federal regulation to protect our communities and our National Scenic Area from crude oil transport, then we certainly don't need to an anyway add to the problem!!

Commissioners, you have been our friends and allies in helping our community in many arenas, and we appreciate your attention to Mosier and our various issues.

**THIS IS THE BIGGEST THREAT TO OUR COMMUNITY THAT WE HAVE FACED.**

Please show your solidarity with the people of Mosier, to all the communities along the tracks, to the National Scenic Area, to the Tribal Nations and to your own children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

Arlene Burns  
Mayor of Mosier