



EXHIBIT 4  
DATE 2/10/15  
HB 308

## Snowy Mountain Development Corporation

Mr. Chairman, Committee members, for the record, my name is Kathie Bailey. I serve as Executive Director of Snowy Mountain Development Corporation a Certified Regional Development Corporation (CRDC) and Economic Development District (EDD) that serves 6 counties in Central Montana including the area of the Signal Peak Mine. For the past fifteen years, I've worked with the Coal Board. Our area produces 30% of the coal mined in Montana, we don't have representation on the Coal Board, and five of the six counties I serve are directly impacted by the majority of coal transported from the Signal Peak Mine. Yet, I stand in opposition to HB308.

I have served and continue to work with many federal, state and local boards, commissions, councils, committees, and entities; but the Coal Board is the most effective, efficient, non-bureaucratic, fair and impartial board that is humanly possible. It has served the state and the coal-impacted area well for the past 40 years and is not broken. Let's not try to fix something that has worked and continues to be working.

Coal Board funds have addressed coal-related transportation impacts in Big Horn, Custer, Dawson, Golden Valley, McCone, Musselshell, Powder River, Richland, Rosebud, Treasure, and Yellowstone Counties, the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Tribes, and the Towns of Hardin, Lodge Grass, Miles City, Glendive, Roundup, Broadus, Colstrip, Forsyth, Hysham, and Billings as well as the Montana Department of Highways for Sarpy and Busby Roads. Currently, the Coal Board considers the coal-related transportation needs in the degree of impact criteria and as such awards grants accordingly.

I do acknowledge that the crux of the problem Mr. Essman is trying to resolve is the fact that the Coal Board has inadequate resources to address the significant impacts to local governments and communities as it relates to the coal industry in Montana and especially its impact on all transportation systems within the state. This bill will not solve the problem of the limited resources available to address all of the transportation impacts created by the coal industry. The central and southeastern region of Montana is proud to provide resources that benefit programs, states, businesses, and local governments all across Montana and help in ensuring the state's Financial Solvency. For the reasons I've stated, I urge you not to support this bill, even though my area might stand to benefit by having some representation on the Coal Board by this re-structure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathie A. Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kathie A. Bailey,  
Executive Director

# Montana Rail System

