

Glenda Wiles

From: Chris Hockman [hockman_cw@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 10:31 AM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Cc: Ron Stoltz; Greg Chilcott; J.R. Iman; Jeff Burrows; Suzy Foss
Subject: Montana Rail Link Subdivision 9 (Darby-Missoula)

Dear Commissioners,

The 2010 Montana State Rail Plan, Chapter 3, Section 3.3 Rail Lines at Risk of Abandonment, page 61 lists the Darby-Missoula line among others at risk. Also on page 61, the report states the following:

"... in order to preserve service on these lines, the State should consider providing incentives for shippers to use the lines, direct subsidies, and reduction or elimination of state property taxes on the rail right-of-way."

The chapter of the report I am referencing is located here:

http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/brochures/railways/railplan_sect3.pdf

Given the standing sagebrush between the tracks, I remain concerned that the line will be abandoned. I also don't think we can preserve the line with local government effort alone.

Is the Board of Commissioners aware of any State legislator's effort to help preserve our county's rail line from abandonment as recommended above?

Sincerely,
Chris Hockman
Hamilton