



# FRIENDS OF THE EEL RIVER

*Working for the recovery of our Wild & Scenic River, its fisheries and communities.*

12/7/2021

Senator Mike McGuire  
California State Capitol, Room 8620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 307 (McGuire) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator McGuire,

Friends of the Eel River strongly support Sen. McGuire's SB 307, which will prevent any state funding from going to help coal companies transport coal on the NCRA rail right of way, or from the Humboldt Bay Harbor.

The Eel River Canyon is simply not an appropriate location for a railroad. When it last operated over 25 years ago, the Northwest Pacific Railroad was prone to frequent derailments, the evidence of which still lie in the river, and was the most expensive line in the nation to maintain. Restoring rail service to the Eel River Canyon would devastate the progress made toward fisheries restoration and remediation of environmental harms caused by the railroad. Add coal to the equation and residents of the North Coast region would be subject to poisoned air and water; the negative impact of coal transportation and storage on public health cannot be understated.

**Coal is the dirtiest and most damaging source of energy out there, and it is the number one contributor to our climate crisis.**

SB 307 explicitly states that state money shall not be spent to initiate, improve or operate rail service on the now defunct North Coast rail line north of the City of Willits. Further, it bans state money from being spent on the buildout of any new bulk coal terminal cavities within the County of Humboldt.

Again, Friends of the Eel River supports the passage of SB 307 and is working hard to do everything we can to stop this toxic coal train.

Sincerely,

Alicia Hamann

Executive Director

Friends of the Eel River

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