

## Why By Rail?

Coal is hauled by rail all over the world. Why?



### **Efficiency:**

Trains can haul 40 or more cars, taking the place of more than that amount of trucks. All while using a fraction of the fuel and producing a fraction of the smog or CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**Safety:**

The potential for accidents on a railway are greatly reduced. While accidents can always happen, the simple numbers tell us, 1 train a day, crewed by 4 people, on a line only with other tightly scheduled trains will probably have less accidents, causing less damage and less loss of life and limb than 60 trucks (there and back) every day driven by 60 drivers amongst five or 10,000 other vehicles.

**Taxpayer Cost:**

The Island Railway is in a unique position being owned by the communities along the line through the ICF. However, unlike highways, railroads still pay their way which means after the initial injection to the ICF to fix up the railway, the maintenance of the railway will pay for itself. And compared to a \$32 Million overpass in Langford that was never completed, or a \$45 Million Horne Lake Connector that might shave 15 minutes off the time to Courtenay from Port Alberni, the return on an \$80 million investment in a 100 kilometer rail link from Port Alberni to Fanny Bay does seem like a bargain.