

February 24, 2003

Phil Ray, Locomotive Engineer B.N.S.F. Railway
502 Tacoma Avenue North
Tacoma, Washington 98403

Marylyn Showalter, Chairwoman
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Docket # TR-021465

Dear Ms. Showalter:

In regards to regulation of the railroads in Washington State concerning the technology of remote control, I find it so sweeping that in this letter all I can do is support an establishment of guidelines to facilitate the absence of safety the locomotive engineer provided while in the cab of the locomotive. I personally find it disturbing that the railroads are in complete denial that future statistics will point to an increase in the loss of limbs and life to railroad workers, an increase in property loss, and loss of moral in the workers that is detrimental to the success of any business.

Safety will always be challenged by carelessness, regardless of all the regulations that are written. I do believe that there should be laws passed to establish rules for all railroads using remote control technology, including the short lines that operate over any public crossings or have access to a main line where public transportation exists to ensure accountability for safety.

I have served on a board of a small corporation (Concrete Technology), and am offering my time and energy in serving on a committee in discussing the ramifications of remote control technology in Washington State.

Respectfully,



Phil Ray

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