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CHAIR, WUTC

Spokane, Washington  
January 17, 2003

Marilyn Showalter, Chairwoman  
Wash. State Utl & Transp. Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr., S.W.  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98540-7250

Dear Madam,

Please organize a state Codification hearing on the use of railroad remote control locomotives at your earliest convenience.

I have personally experienced two near collisions with these rolling death traps and it is beyond my imagination that federal regulatory agencies have not outlawed them!

Therefore I strongly feel it is now the responsibility of individual states to prevail where the Federal Railroad Administration has failed. At this time two cities have had the courage to stand up to this menace and outlaw remote control locomotives within their cities -- Baton Rouge, LA and Detroit, MI. They are indeed to be congratulated for the stand they have taken and it would be appropriate if our state becomes an example for other states to follow by outlawing this equipment before it is allowed to grow and further endanger both employees and the public alike. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Mike Gelhaus  
4316 E. 47th Court  
Spokane, Wash. 99223