

February 28, 2003

Sheri Kent

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

RE: Docket #TR-021465

Dear Ms. Showalter,

I am very concerned about the use of "Remote Controlled Locomotives" in railroad operations. I have learned that the Federal Railroad Administration has failed to effectively regulate the use of remote control technology to safeguard the community and environment of Washington State. I am concerned that without regulation, railroads are not considering my family's safety in their rush to experiment with questionable technology.

I have learned that railroad remote control operations will occur in major cities like Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, Spokane, Pasco, Vancouver as well as smaller communities like Shelton and Aberdeen. I also know that fewer people will be safeguarding railroad operations on our public crossings, in business centers, and through our private neighborhoods.

Numerous accidents are being documented because of this train operation in Washington State and across the United States. These accidents have caused worker injuries, release of hazardous materials, risks to public safety and to the environment. I believe that action is necessary immediately to stem the risk railroads are bringing to Washington State communities.

Please support the efforts of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers to bring safe, sane regulation of railroad remote control technology to Washington State. The safety of my family, my neighbors, and the environment depends on your efforts.

Sincerely,

Sheri Kent
Spokane, WA