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November 21, 2014

Mr. Steve Bangs
101 Van Avenue
Toppenish, WA 98948

RE: *BNSF v. Yakima County*
WUTC Docket Nos. TR-140382 and TR-140383

Dear Mr. Bangs:

This letter and its enclosure follow our telephone call on November 19, 2014.

Enclosed for your review is Prefiled Testimony of Steve Bangs. If this testimony accurately reflects the information we discussed during our telephone call on October 16, 2014, please sign where indicated and return to our office in the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

If you have any questions or concerns about this testimony, please contact me at your earliest convenience at 509-575-0313.

Thank you for your assistance in this pressing matter.

Very truly yours,



Quinn N. Plant

QNP:ksl
Enclosure

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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY,)	DOCKET TR140382 and
)	DOCKET TR140383
Petitioner,)	
vs.)	
)	PREFILED TESTIMONY OF
YAKIMA COUNTY,)	STEVE BANGS
)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

1. Please state your name and address.

Steve Bangs, 101 Van Avenue, Toppenish, WA 98948.

2. What is your occupation?

I am an owner of D & S Farms. We farm approximately 2000 acres on both sides of the BNSF line in an area generally east of the City of Toppenish. We farm primarily hops, alfalfa, corn and wheat, although we farm other crops as well.

3. Does D & S Farms use the railroad at-grade crossings at North Stevens Road and Barnhart Road?

Yes. Our farming operations are spread out and we use various crossings throughout the growing and harvest seasons. We farm about 500 acres on Chambers Road south of the BNSF line, near the North Stevens Road crossing. Most equipment used on this acreage is stored south of the BNSF line on nearby Harris Road. However,

for various reasons we do need to move equipment across the BNSF line for projects on or near these 500 acres. I would estimate that D & S Farms moves heavy farm equipment across the North Stevens Road crossing every week during the growing and harvesting season, often on multiple occasions. During harvest season, much of the production from these 500 acres and other acreage south of the BNSF line uses the North Stevens Road crossing to access state highways.

4. Would the closure of the railroad at-grade crossings at North Stevens Road and Barnhart Road divert D & S Farms’ farming equipment onto SR 22 and other roadways?

Yes. The closure of the North Stevens Road crossing will result in numerous trips by our heavy farm equipment along both SR 22 and South Track Road.

DECLARATION

I, STEVE BANGS, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing PREFILED TESTIMONY OF STEVE BANGS is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATED THIS _____ day of November, 2014.

STEVE BANGS