

**Cupp John (UTC)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2007 1:57 PM  
**To:** records@wutc.wa.gov  
**Cc:** Hunter, Kathy (UTC)  
**Subject:** comments againts TR-070696

May 14,2007

To: Ms Carole Washburn

Subject: Comments against closure DOT crossing #084737D

Docket Number: TR-070696

Commenter: Dr. John Haines and Dr. Ruth Haines

We read with alarm and concern your notice TR-070696 of the petition for abandonment and closure of the rail crossing at Hickox Road, Mount Vernon, WA. Our family's home is on Hickox Road very near the crossing. Your proposed closure would significantly threaten our health and safety, along with inconveniencing us on a daily basis as we travel to and from Mount Vernon. First, we would be trapped should the Skagit River flood since it joins Dike Road at the river. Second, we would have to wait much longer for local emergency crews to respond to a call from our house. We know already how important a quick response is since our 911 call of several months ago brought aid quickly. If the crossing is closed, the emergency vehicles would travel several extra miles to reach us. In addition, John has a bad heart and we chose this location for its ease of access to the hospital.

To date we have received no letter from you asking for comment. Furthermore, we remind you of the concerns expressed by the mayor of Mount Vernon and the Skagit Valley government. We recommend a thorough review of alternatives with local citizens directly involved. Surely the State can place railroad sidings in a more isolated area or provide for continued use of the crossing.

Please do not close the crossing.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Haines

Dr. Ruth Haines

[REDACTED]  
Mount Vernon, WA, 98273  
[REDACTED]  
  
[REDACTED]

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5/21/2007