

January 23, 2003

RECEIVED  
JAN 29 2003  
CHAIR, WALTER

Nancy Reddish  
23809 NE Alva's Rd.  
Battle Ground, WA 98604

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

03 JAN 29 AM 9:10  
STATE OF WASH.  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

RECEIVED  
RECORDS MANAGEMENT

RE: Docket # TR-021465

Dear Ms. Showalter,

I'm the wife of a locomotive engineer and I'm writing to voice my concerns regarding the use of "Remote Control Locomotives" in the State of Washington. As the spouse of a long time worker in the industry, I know first hand the hazards this technology introduces into the railroad work environment and more importantly, into Washington's communities. I also know that the Federal Railroad Administration has failed to take steps to effectively regulate the use of remote control technology to safeguard the citizens of Washington.

There have been numerous accidents in Washington, as well as across the United States, by railroads using this technology. The August 6, 2002 accident on the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad at Shelton, Washington is just one example. On that date, a remotely controlled locomotive ran out of control for several miles before demolishing a truck on a grade crossing. The outcome of the accident could have been tragic had the locomotive instead struck a passenger car, school bus or truck carrying a hazardous substance.

There have been many documented accidents involving remote control locomotives recently. The number of accidents is certain to increase as railroads move to more widely implement this technology. The BNSF Railway currently uses this technology in Washington and has plans to vastly expand its use. The UP Railroad intends to also soon use it here.

I urge you to please take action to insure that the State of Washington immediately regulates and stems this threat to workers such as my husband, to our communities and to our environment.

Sincerely,

*Nancy Reddish*