

10-29-98

Date Received: November 6, 1998

Docket No.: TV-971477

Company: Amends WAC 480-12, Relating to Household Goods Movers

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TV-971477

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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

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Monday, October 26, 1998  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Caroline Washburn  
Executive Secretary  
Washington State Utilities & Transportation Committee  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia WA 98504-7250

Dear Ms. Washburn:

I am writing as a customer of James Albertson, President of Sprint Moving of Tukwila. I recently moved out of a large house on Bainbridge Island and was disturbed by the information I was given by the various representatives of major moving companies who came to make bids on the job. When I told them that we would be moving into Seattle, we were told that there was really no point in our seeking other bids because according to the regulations imposed by the WUTC all carriers are required to charge the same rates.

Just as I was about to sign on with one of these movers I read about James Albertson's case in the newspaper. I elected to give him a call, and he came out and significantly underbid what the other companies had quoted.

I decided to choose Sprint, and I am not sorry I did. In fact I have repeatedly recommended them to my friends. I found his crew to be well mannered, intelligent, efficient, and responsible. I was especially impressed by James Albertson himself, who was a model of courtesy and professionalism throughout our move, and who has invested his crew with a spirit of camaraderie.

From my own experience, and from what I have read and learned about Mr. Albertson's conflict with your commission, the regulations that essentially fix prices for licensed amounts not to regulation but collusion. Had I not investigated further, I would have ended up paying almost a quarter more for my very substantial move, simply on the basis of being told that all movers charged the same price. Sprint Moving provided us with all the insurance coverage I required, and their crew was as professional as any mover with whom I have contracted.

As the new executive secretary of the WUTC you have an historic opportunity to reform moving rates and regulations in the state of Washington. I urge you to end the overly cozy relationship between the commission and the WMC and give consumers a choice and responsible, motivated entrepreneurs like Mr. Alberston the opportunity to compete.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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