

January 20, 2003

Cecil G. Jasso  
2507 SE Lincoln Street  
Portland, Ore. 97214

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 an engineer working in Washington State, and I am very concerned about the use of "Remote Controlled Locomotives" in railroad operations. I know first hand the hazards this technology introduces into Washington communities. I also know that the Federal Railroad Administration has failed to effectively regulate the use of remote control technology to safeguard the citizens of Washington.

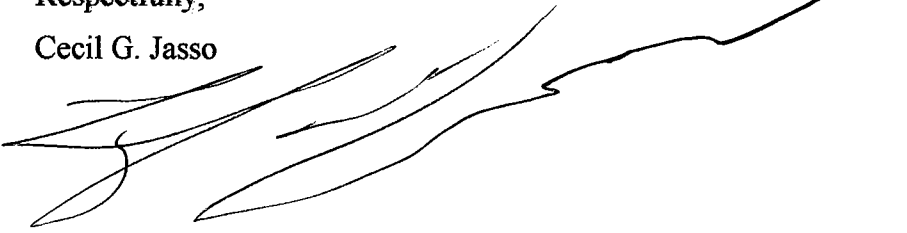
On August 6, 2002, the Puget Sound and Pacific (PSAP) railroad while operating a train using remote control caused a crossing accident in Shelton, Washington. The train ran away from the operator, careened several miles downhill without anyone on board, and collided with a tractor-trailer on a crossing in downtown Shelton. The PSAP is not alone using remote control technology. The BNSF, and soon the UPRR, will use remote control in Washington.

Numerous accidents have occurred in Washington and across the United States by railroads using remote control technology. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has documented numerous accidents with remote control technology. These accidents have caused worker injuries, release of hazardous materials, and risks to public safety. I believe that action is necessary immediately to stem the risk that railroads are bringing to Washington communities.

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

Respectfully,

Cecil G. Jasso



RECEIVED  
JAN 30 2003  
CHAIR, WUTC  
STATE OF WASH.  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION  
RECEIVED  
RECORDS MANAGEMENT  
03 JAN 30 AM 9:16