



Mount Vernon Christian School

Elementary • Middle School • High School

TR-070696

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May 17, 2007

WUTC
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98273

To Whom it May Concern:

I am sending comment on a proposal that is being considered regarding the closure or suspension of use of a railroad crossing in Skagit County on the BNSF line. It is our understanding the there is a proposal to close the Hickcox crossing.

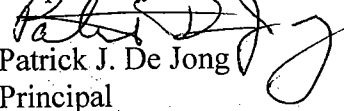
As the Principal of Mount Vernon Christian I would like to express my opposition to this proposal. I believe that such a closure would have a very negative effect on the safety of our students at Mount Vernon Christian School. This increased traffic flow could cause very real safety issues for us.

We are located at 820 W. Blackburn Road and with the closure of the crossing we believe that their would be a significant increase in traffic along the front of our school. the elimination of access to the farming areas served by Hickcox would Blackburn is already a busy road and with the closure of Hickcox more of the traffic that uses that artery would be forced to use Blackburn.

We have a growing community at Mount Vernon Christian. At present we have 340 students on campus and are projecting a growth rate in excess of 10 percent per year over the next couple of years. I believe that our new 43,000 Square foot high school facility will attract a greater number of high school age students. Many of these students will drive cars to campus. I am concerned about this increase in student drivers but to add more traffic unrelated to the school issues would only increase the safety concerns.

Please do not approve the proposal to close the Hickcox Road crossing on the BNSF rail line in Skagit County.

Respectfully Submitted.


Patrick J. De Jong
Principal
Mt. Vernon Christian School
820 W. Blackburn Road
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

*Preparing students to respond in
loving service to God and their neighbors.*