

COMFORT GLOW HEATING LLC

Jim Youngsman
18697 Hickox Road
Mount Vernon WA 98273
360-424-3789; FAX 360-428-4010
www.comfortglowheating.com

RECEIVED
MAY 16 2007
WASH. UT. &
STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION
RECEIVED
RECORDS MANAGEMENT
MAY 17 AM 9:01

May 15, 2007

Carole Washburn, Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
P. O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Reference No. TR-070696
BNSF Railway Petition to close Hickox Road Highway-Rail Grade Crossing

Dear Ms. Washburn,

I have lived directly west of the BNSF railroad on Hickox Road for over 35 years. Last year I sold my house and farm to my son and his family. I still maintain a business office on the property and spend time there nearly every day.

Hickox Road is a busy and important road. It serves many residents who must travel Hickox to reach their homes. School buses from two districts travel the Hickox Road to pick up children, including my three grandchildren. Farmers depend on Hickox Road to move equipment to their various farming locations. Fire and emergency vehicles would have to travel 4 additional miles to reach the West End of Hickox Road. Hickox Road is the access road to Interstate Highway 5 at Exit 224, known as the Hickox Road interchange.

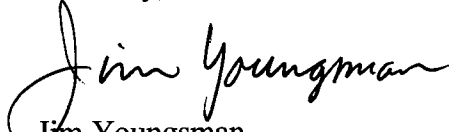
Closing the Hickox Road crossing to allow BNSF to extend a siding 500 feet south would create a real hardship and risk to health and safety of the residents west of the railroad. My family and I oppose this closure and request that you also will oppose BNSF's request to close Hickox Road.

Having expressed my personal opposition to allowing BNSF to close Hickox Road, I wish to point out the unethical politics of this matter. Senator Mary Margaret Haugen from the 10th Legislative District is the chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. The \$3,000,000 the legislature appropriated of our tax dollars to fund this project could not have happened without Senator Haugen's support. It is interesting to note that on the Public Disclosure records for political contributions, BNSF has given very little to Senator Haugen's campaigns in the past until her last election. Now suddenly they are supporters with maximum allowable contributions for both her primary and general election. This effort on the part of BNSF gives every indication of political payback. Be assured that at public hearings and wherever I can speak out in opposition to closing the

Hickox Road crossing, I will be there to point out this unethical conduct on the part of both Senator Haugen and BNSF.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to speak out against this abuse of power and the hardship it could cause the affected citizens.

Sincerely,


Jim Youngsman



Evergreen Freedom Foundation

A Nonprofit Public Policy Research Organization

FAX

2 pages with cover

June 16, 2006

From: Jason Mercier, Senior Budget Analyst
P: (360) 956-3482

To: Jim Youngsman
F: (360) 428-4010

Message

Jim,

Here are the contributions from obvious transportation related entities. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Sincerely,

Jason Mercier

Son Mary Margaret Haugen

Sept.

12/13/2001	\$600.00	P	ASPHALT PAVING ASSN OF WA PAC
07/13/2004	\$175.00	G	ASPHALT PAVING ASSN OF WA PAC
07/13/2004	\$75.00	P	ASPHALT PAVING ASSN OF WA PAC
09/11/2004	\$675.00	P	BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILWAY
09/11/2004	\$675.00	G	BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILWAY
10/15/1999	\$575.00	P	BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILWAY
07/06/2000	\$475.00	G	BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILWAY
10/19/2000	\$100.00	G	BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILWAY
07/06/2000	\$25.00	P	BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILWAY
10/19/2004	\$675.00	G	CAR & TRUCK RENTING & LEASING ASSN OF WA
12/05/2003	\$625.00	P	TRUCKING ACTION COMM
12/05/2003	\$625.00	G	TRUCKING ACTION COMM
07/01/2000	\$600.00	G	TRUCKING ACTION COMM
09/14/1999	\$575.00	P	TRUCKING ACTION COMM
07/01/2000	\$25.00	P	TRUCKING ACTION COMM

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RECEIVED
JAN 28 2008
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

January 25, 2008

John Cupp
UTC
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia WA 98504-7250

RECEIVED
JAN 25 2008
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RE: Hickox Road Crossing Closure

Dear Mr. Cupp:

I feel that writing to you is an exercise in futility. In business we say that no deal is done until the money is in the bank. In the case of Hickox Road, it appears that the deal is done and the money is in the bank in the form of a \$3,000,000 appropriation from the state to provide B.N.S.F. Railway with the money they need to do the side track extension. So, my question and concern, why did you hold the hearings when it appears the deal is done? If the money is in the bank and the decision has been made, are you just placating us who are severely affected just to make us feel good?

As a former legislator, I think I can recognize a power play when I see one. Senator Haugen, as chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, controls which bills go through her committee. She also had the power to kill this appropriation. B.N.S.F., it appears, has her bought and paid for. They have given, according to the Public Disclosure Committee records, the maximum contribution allowable by law for each primary and general election. B.N.S.F. gave \$1400 on 9/10/2007, \$1350 on 9/11/2004, \$1175 in 1999 and 2000. These are very significant contributions in that she chairs the Senate Transportation Committee. It smells very much like political pay back to me.

If you feel you must extend your siding, even with all the objections of the city, county and affected residents in the area, then please, leave Hickox Road open. If we have no other choice we would much prefer the opportunity to cross two sets of tracks rather than close the road and force me, my family and my neighbors to drive 4 extra miles to reach Highway 99 or the freeway.

Sincerely,


Jim Youngsman

POSSIBLE
HICKOX RD
R R
CLOSURE



Rick
www.MrRIGGERS.com

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