

Wyse, Lisa (UTC)

From: Hunter, Kathy (UTC)
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2007 8:02 AM
To: UTC DL Records Center
Cc: Cupp John (UTC)
Subject: FW: Hickox Road Highway-Rail Grade Crossing, TR-070696

Please distribute and post in RMS.

Thanks - Kathy

-----Original Message-----

From: Carol Thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2007 9:20 PM
To: Hunter, Kathy (UTC)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Hickox Road Highway-Rail Grade Crossing, TR-070696

Dear Ms Washburn:

I wish to voice my strongest objection to BNSF's petition to close the railroad crossing at Hickox Rd in South Mount Vernon, reference number TR-070696.

I think the closing of Hickox Rd to through traffic would place an undue hardship on residents of the Dike Rd and Britt Rd neighborhoods:

I believe that closing the Hickox Rd crossing will greatly hinder police, fire and medical responses in our neighborhoods. Last November, my home was damaged in a major storm which caused an electrical fire at my home. If it weren't for the quick response of the Cedardale Fire Department, my home might have been severely damaged by fire. The same would be true of any call for emergency assistance including medical and police-

Emergency response in the case of a flood would also be hindered and one more exit for residents of the flood-prone Britt Rd/ Dike Rd area would be closed off. I am also concerned that our homeowner's insurance would increase because of the limited access of fire emergency response.

In closing Hickox Rd, the WUTC is also taking away the neighborhood's access to I-5. The only option left to us would be to drive by a small country road, five miles to Conway to access the freeway. Frankly, that's just not fair to take that access away.

I also have concerns about the continued viability of farming on the west side of the railroad tracks if farm vehicles, tractors, etc. have no access except to these farms except through the city of Mount Vernon or the town of Conway.

I strongly object to closing the Hickox Rd crossing and am requesting to speak publicly and on the record at the upcoming hearing. I must say that I am quite disappointed that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission made absolutely no effort to inform me of this proposed closure of Hickox Rd. The only way I found out about it was through a neighbor who left me a notice at my door this afternoon.

This is not the public and open process I expect from government.

Please respond to me by mail at:
Carol Thomas

[REDACTED]
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 840-1351