

February 3, 2003

John R. Cox
3031 31st Ave. W.
Seattle, Wa. 98199

Marilyn Showalter, Chairwoman
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
Olympia, Wa. 98504-7250

Re: Docket #TR-021465

Dear Ms. Showalter,

I am a locomotive engineer working in Washington State. I am very concerned about the use of "Remote Controlled Locomotives" in railroad operations. I have learned that the Federal Railroad Administration has failed to effectively regulate the use of remote control technology to safeguard the citizens of Washington. I am concerned that without regulation, railroads are not considering my family's safety in their rush to experiment with questionable technology.

I have learned that railroad remote control operations will occur in major cities like Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, Spokane, Pasco and Vancouver as well as smaller communities like Shelton and Aberdeen. I also know that fewer people will be safeguarding railroad operations on our public crossings, in business centres and through our private neighbourhoods.

Numerous accidents are being documented because of this train operation in Washington and across the United States. 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 neighbours and myself depends on your efforts.

Respectfully,

John R. Cox

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