



Mount Vernon Christian School

Elementary • Middle School • High School

Mr. John Cupp
Public Involvement Coordinator
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
PO Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

TR-070696
RECEIVED
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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

Dear Mr. Cupp:

I thank you for your communication concerning the decision regarding the closure of the BNSF closing on Hickcox Road south of Mount Vernon, Washington.

I remain disappointed regarding the decision to do so. I still contend that this will cause greater farm traffic to be forced to travel down Blackburn Road and cause increased potential danger to both students walking and driving to and from Mount Vernon Christian School. I believe that a rail road crossing such as the one located on Hickcox allows farm related traffic to remain separated from the general student, parent and bus traffic that uses Blackburn daily.

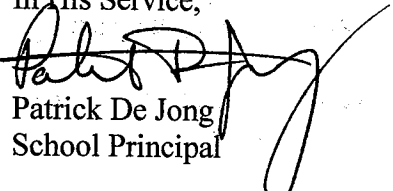
On a side note regarding one of your statements contained in the letter sent regarding this issue. You would have a difficult time convincing me that the BNSF trains would ever travel at speeds in excess of 100MPH over Hickcox and through Mount Vernon. I do not believe that given the nature of the track that winds through Mount Vernon that speeds of this amount would ever be possible. At 100 MPH physics would dictate that there would be a derailment. Common sense would tell me that at Hickcox Road it would therefore be impossible for BNSF to slow the train enough before they hit the city of Mount Vernon if they were going 100 MPH

For two reasons I would encourage you to once again reconsider this decision.

1. If safety is of concern I believe that forcing more farm traffic through city streets creates hazards that are equally as dangerous.
2. Eliminating flood access and exit routes does not seem to be a good idea. You will find this out when one occurs in this area and exit routes have been eliminated.
3. The farmers in the valley have a difficult enough time making a living as it is. I do not believe we need to be making life more difficult by creating more obstacles for them to overcome in movement of equipment.

Thank you again.

In His Service,


Patrick De Jong
School Principal

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