

January 30, 2003

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

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CHAIR, WUTC

RE: Docket #TR-021465

Dear Ms. Showalter,

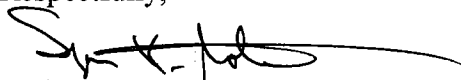
I am the wife of a locomotive engineer working in Washington State. I am most concerned about the use of "Remote Controlled Locomotives" in railroad operations. I have learned that the Federal Railroad Administration is not effectively regulating the use of remote control technology to safeguard the citizens of Washington. I am concerned that lacking strong regulation, railroads are not considering my family's safety in their rush to experiment with questionable technology.

I understand that railroad remote control operations will occur in many highly populated and traffic congested industrial urban areas. I also know that fewer people will be safeguarding railroad operations on our public crossings, in business centers, and through our private neighborhoods.

Quite a few 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 for safe and sane regulation of railroad remote control technology to Washington State. The safety of my family, my neighbors, and myself depends on your efforts.

Respectfully,



Suzan K. Robertson

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