

Cindy Johnson
12606 Hunter Rd SW
Rochester, WA 98579

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October 19, 2004

STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Dear Sir or Madam:

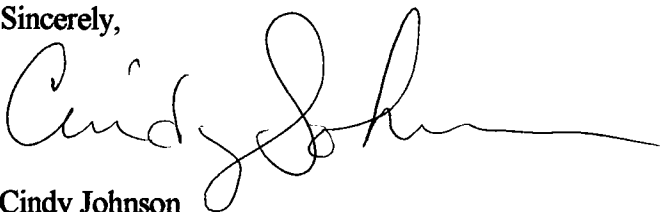
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

This letter is in regards to docket number TR-041729 notice of filing to close a highway-rail grade crossing at Moon Road. I have lived on Hunter Road for the past 35 years and am well aware of the use of that crossing. Closing that crossing would be a huge mistake and is not in the best interest of the community. Moon Road takes a hard right just prior to the crossing and due to a structure at that point it makes it a very dangerous turn. The tenant at that structure has added to the obstruction of the view of oncoming traffic by planting trees and adding a trellis to the building. This makes it impossible to see around the corner. Closing the crossing at Moon Road would force all traffic to make this dangerous turn. Most residents who are aware of this danger use Hunter Road instead of Moon Road and cross the tracks at that point, not at the point the railroad people want us to use.

A better and safer solution would be to close the crossing further to the east and abandon Moon Road from that point to the crossing in question. The railroad wants to abandon that crossing so they don't have to split up the railcars when they park them on the tracks for extended periods. This is a concern as they continually violate the law by parking less than the legal 100 foot distance they are required to observe. We have filed several complaints because of their parking as close as 15 feet from the crossing which makes it impossible to see oncoming trains.

We as a neighborhood are also concerned with their parking railcars containing garbage for extended periods in our area as rats have been observed on several occasions coming from these cars. They have also used this area to sit all night long with the engines running which rumbles quite loudly and keeps many of us awake. But the biggest fear is the potential for a fatal accident due to the configuration of the road at that crossing. It needs to cross the tracks and then continue down Hunter Road until it connects again at the east end. The best situation would be for a crossing arm to be place there as the railroad refuses to honor the 100 foot setback law. Please review this situation with the county road people and keep us informed at to the decision.

Sincerely,



Cindy Johnson