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To Public Comments@wutc

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Subject Hickox closure

This letter is in response to docket #TR-070696

I read with interest your consideration of the closing of Hickox road as a request from BNSF. This letter is not written because this matter just so happens to be "in my back yard". This letter is to maybe enlighten you that more is at stake then making it inconvenient for those who use it and also there are other options available.

First of all, I do live on the Hickox and the following factures come into play. If you would look at an aerial map you would see that for me to get to my house in an emergency, such as flooding, all the roads would be closed because of emergency vehicles or God forbid actual flooding. Evidently the Army Core of Engineers think it will happen, they are now in the process of coming out with higher flooding maps. This road is also used by many other people and is the direct line to the hill area and or I-5. Also we hear a lot about the pipe line from the refineries, well that line runs through the fields and across the Hickox. How could I get to my home or out of it if something would happen? I am trapped. How about any and all emergency vehicles? Several volunteers live on this side of the tracks look how far they have to travel to even get to the station or to the emgency sight. Checking with the insurance company's they must feel that response time is important because they informed me that my premium will go up because it will now take longer for any emergency vehicles. I think you are now getting the picture a little bit. Would Washington State take any liability and pay for any loss of life or property because they closed the road with other options available? This would most likely go to court.

Remember we are talking a lot of families North and South of the Hickox not just who live on it but those who live all the way to the city limits of Mt. Vernon. Remember you would be doing this for just one interest and thumbing your nose at all the people involved.

Are there other options? you bet. No one seems to care if they would go from Hickox all the way to Conway that's two and half miles. BNSF wants to only go five hundred feet beyond the Hickox and cause this much turmoil? Why can't they break the train apart? They might say that cost money, well look what all of us would loose for their gain for the rest of our lives. Even if they would make their train ten cars shorter, that would still make for a mile and a half long train. Or how about making an under pass? The problem is solved forever. It's done elsewhere already.

In closing, don't just cater to one interest. Let's look at all of the options, then make a sensible decision because there are other options. I have not heard of a one reason

favoring the closure and that is from the county commissioners on down, so why would a yes to close even be considered? If your board would say yes, I think you folks should be gentleman enough to call a hearing to tell us why.

Yes I would like to be informed of all matters pertaining to this matter.

Thanks Larry and Margaret Vander Pol