

**Kathy Lyczewski**

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**From:** Hunter, Kathy (UTC) [khunter@utc.wa.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2013 3:59 PM  
**To:** Wagner, Richard W; Kent McHenry  
**Cc:** Wyse, Lisa (UTC)  
**Subject:** Citizen Comments in TR-121647 and TR-121648  
**Attachments:** Citizen comments as of Feb 26 2013.pdf

Hi Rick and Kent,

Attached are copies of citizen comments in TR-121647 and TR-121648.

Kathy Hunter, Deputy Assistant Director, Transportation Safety  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Office Telephone: (360) 664-1257  
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Fax: (360) 586-1150

# Public Comments by Case

*Stephona*

Total Comments: 10

In Favor: 0

Opposed: 10

Undecided: 0

Exhibit No.

Filing Support No	Commenter	Source	Comments
	Andy Curfman	Phone	Closure of this crossing would cause a hardship to his farm. Instead of just crossing the tracks to access fields on the other side, he would have to go down Track Rd 2-3 miles to Meyers Rd; 1.5 miles to Highway 22, then back 3 miles. The total trip would be about 7.5 miles further than the current trip using the crossing. This is a real big problem during harvest season.
	Rich Schell	Phone	There is also a safety issue with closing this crossing. Very slow moving farm trucks would have to use Highway 22, which has fast moving traffic and is heavily travelled. Lots of agricultural equipment uses this crossing.
	Gary Hackner	Phone	This crossing is 1/4 mile from his house. It would add miles to his trips to go just about anywhere from home. He drives a semi, so the added mileage is exceptionally burdensome.
	Dean Oswalt	Phone	He is against closing this crossing.
	Craig Oswalt	Phone	He is a farmer who uses the crossing on a daily basis. Closing the crossing would create a hardship for him.
	Dan DeRuyter	Phone	This crossing is very important to him. He is a farmer and uses this road a lot.
	Glen Shepherd	Phone	Uses the crossing with his trucks. Does not want the crossing to close. It's an inconvenience to go around.
	Mark Hackner	Email	His company, Central Machinery Sales, uses the crossing to get service trucks to farmers in the area. He uses the crossing a lot during some parts of the year.
			It has come to my attention that you plan on closing the crossing on north Stevens road TR121647. I'd like to make a statement that closing that crossing would create a problem for farmers moving

Case: 121648

Title: Barnhart Rd Crossing Closure - Yakima County

PI Coordinator: Cupp, John

Staff Lead: Kathy Hunter

# Public Comments by Case

*Barnhart*

Total Comments: 11

In Favor: 0

Opposed: 11

Undecided: 0

Exhibit No. (GN-7)

Filing Support No	Commenter	Source	Comments
	Tim Thompson	Email	Additional comments, dated Feb. 15, saved as attachment.

In reference to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission's petition for the closure of a highway-rail grade crossing, Barnhart - Railroad Milepost 62.40. This crossing is located on Tribal Trust Allotment No. T-614 of the Yakama Nation and is used extensively by resident's that have homes located on Barnhart Road, farmer's that have to move their farm machinery from one field to another and by Yakama Tribal members who attend Tribal ceremonies at Satus Longhouse that is located on Barnhart Road. The proposed railroad crossing closure would negatively impact all those who have used the railroad crossing and who want to continue to use the railroad crossing in the future, also it is essential for the Tribal members who use the railroad crossing to gain access to the Satus Longhouse to attend Tribal ceremonies that are an important part of our culture. The Yakama Nation Land Enterprise is requesting additional time to file comments, until February 25, 2013 to address this proposed action. Thank You.

Tim Thompson  
 Leasing Specialist  
 (509) 865-2251 Ext. 4795  
 tim@ynle.com  
 timthompson142@gmail.com

Andy Curfman Phone Closing the Barnhart Road crossing would be devastating to local farmers. From this person's farm, the alternate route requires the ability to make a very sharp turn in order to use the alternate



Yakama Nation Land Enterprise  
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February 15, 2013

Kathy Hunter, Deputy Assistant Director  
Transportation Safety Washington Utilities and Transportation  
Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Ms. Hunter:

Concerning the petition for the closure of a highway-rail grade crossing, Barnhart - Railroad Milepost 62.40, the Yakama Nation Land Enterprise objects to this proposal.

This crossing is located on Tribal Trust Allotment No. T-614 of the Yakama Nation and is used extensively by Tribal members. There are seven homes located within a quarter mile of the railroad crossing.

Local farmers have utilized the railroad crossing over the years and continue to need to utilize it to move their farm machinery from field to field during their annual crop seasons.

Also, the Satus Longhouse is located on Barnhart Road and Yakama Tribal members who attend religious ceremonies, feast ceremonies, funeral ceremonies, and other cultural events would be greatly affected by the crossing closure. These cultural ceremonies are an important part of the Yakama Tribal customs and the proposed closure would cut off access to the Satus Longhouse.

Our objection to the petition for the closure is based upon the reasons provided above and we believe these to be justifiable reasons.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tim Thompson

CONCUR:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Thompson CFO



Confederated Tribes and Bands  
Of the Yakama Nation

Established by the  
Treaty of June 9, 1855

February 25, 2013

David Danner, Executive Director and Secretary  
Utilities & Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Yakima County Petition to Close Barnhart and N Stevens Roads

Dear Mr. Danner:

It recently came to the attention of the Yakama Nation Tribal Council that petitions were filed by Yakima County to the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) for the closure of two highway-rail crossings on the Yakama Reservation. The petitions for Barnhart Road (docket #121648) and N Stevens Road (docket # 121647), were received by your office on October 12, 2012.

At this time, Yakama Nation cannot support these actions and objects to the closure of the above said roads. Yakama Nation requests that UTC and Yakima County delay any further actions on the said petitions until a meeting with Yakama Tribal Council occurs.

These actions can result in substantial impacts to the social welfare of tribal members living in the area and ceremonial activities at the Satus Longhouse. We realize safety is an issue associated with the proposed closure, but limiting access may have profound consequences as well. Emergency response to tribal homes in the area could be significantly impacted. The Satus Longhouse located at the intersection of Satus Longhouse and Drainbank Roads is better served by the Barnhart Road access to and from SR 22 during ceremonial activities.

For any questions and to schedule a meeting, please contact Al Pinkham, Engineering Planner, at (509)865-5121 extension 6735 or email [apinkham@yakama.com](mailto:apinkham@yakama.com).

Sincerely,

  
Harry Smiskin, Chairman  
Yakama Nation Tribal Council

Cc: Ruth Jim, RIL Committee Chair  
Philip Burdeau, Tribal Administrator  
Phil Rigdon, DNR Superintendent

**Kathy Lyczewski**

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**From:** Hunter, Kathy (UTC) [khunter@utc.wa.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2013 11:19 AM  
**To:** Kent McHenry  
**Subject:** FW: proposed closure of the Barnhart crossing

FYI

Kathy Hunter, Deputy Assistant Director, Transportation Safety  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW  
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**From:** Tim Thompson [mailto:tim@ynle.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2013 11:01 AM  
**To:** Hunter, Kathy (UTC)  
**Cc:** Cupp, John (UTC); [kent.mchenry@co.yakima.wa](mailto:kent.mchenry@co.yakima.wa); Lucei, Karen; Carroll Palmer  
**Subject:** proposed closure of the Barnhart crossing

Kathy Hunter, Deputy Assistant Director  
Transportation Safety Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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