

RECEIVED

MAY 30 2007

①  
In reference to # TRO 70696, the  
Closing of Hickop Rd.

It has been brought to my  
attention that Burlington Northern  
(BNSF) has filed a petition to close  
the crossing at Hickop Rd. in Skagit  
County.

I believe this is a very bad  
mistake for several reasons.

① This would take away a huge  
amount of farm land that we need  
in the Skagit Valley to maintain  
our agriculture so we don't have  
to depend on Foreign imports which  
are unsafe for human consumption.

② There would be no fire protection  
for the many residents in this  
area who depend on our local  
volunteer Fire Dept.

As a 29 year (retired) Fireman  
with Cedarvale F.D. I know how  
important a quick response is to  
(most)

(2)

an emergency, be it fire or aid call. The response time would be trippled if that access is cut off. The Fire Dept would have to go nearly into Mt Vernon to come back to the central part of their area or go half way to Conway to access this area.

As I understand the Commissioners, the Conway Fire Dept will be moving across the freeway in a short time so that leaves us no immediate Fire protection

(3) I believe that 40 to 50% of the people who live in the area to be abandoned are elderly or in poor health and need help as quickly as they can get it. I know because my wife and neighbor are part of these people. If it hadn't been for Cedardale and medic 1, my wife would have died from a

(3)

Diabetes attack or again when she had a heart attack.

(4) Property Taxes would be increased Tremendously because we have no fire service within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. Big business (BNSF) does not think of the ordinary people, it is only of themselves. They think.

It is my understanding that they (BNSF) owns a large right-of-way and property along their tracks to the north of College way where their station used to be.

This is not barm land and has no roads going through it clear back to the Hoag Road. They could build a siding there and not disturb anyone.

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