

September 21, 1999

Kim Doby
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Possible changes, Additions, or Deletions to Rules Regarding Railroad Company Operations

Dear Ms. Doby:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Commission's action to review and possibly change the rules regarding railroad company operations.

We support the deletions and additions presented in Draft 1 of the Proposed Rules. Specifically we offer the following comments:

- Page 4, line 136-184, Procedure to Set Train Speed Limits. The process and requirements are fair. We particularly appreciate the notice requirement in (b) line 167.
- Page 10, line 380-400, Railroad Community Notice Requirement. We support this section but are concerned that a 10-day notice requirement may not be enough. Perhaps in emergencies the time period could be shorter, but generally 30 days would be preferable.
- Page 16, line 626-632, Blockage of Public Grade Crossings. The inclusion of "if possible" on line 627 makes this rule unenforceable. Certainly there will be occasions when an intersection is blocked for more than ten minutes, but what happens if this is consistently the case? The railroad can claim that it is "not possible" to comply with the rule.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment and for the good work of the Commission.

Sincerely,

City of Wenatchee
Gary R. Tomsic
City Administration