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March 27, 2014

Mr. David Pratt
Assistant Director, Transportation Safety
Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

**CERTIFIED MAIL/RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED AND FIRST CLASS
MAIL**

Dear Mr. Pratt:

This law office represents Yakima County (the "County"). The County wishes to respond in opposition to the two petitions recently filed on behalf of BNSF Railway Co. with file designation numbers TR-140382 and TR-140383. The petitions affect highway-rail grade crossings at North Stevens Road and Barnhart Road in Yakima County, Washington.

The County opposes these petitions and provides this letter pursuant to WAC 480-07-660.

The full name and mailing address of the objecting party are as follows:

Yakima County by and through its Department of Public Services
Mr. Gary Ekstedt
County Engineer/Assistant Director
128 North Second Street #408
Yakima, WA 98901

The particular crossings that are the subject of this objection are as follows:

Highway-rail grade crossing at North Stevens Road in Yakima County, Washington; highway-rail grade crossing at Barnhart Road in Yakima County, Washington.

The commission docket numbers are as follows:

TR-140382 and TR-140383.

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PROJECTS MANAGEMENT
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COMMISSION

The basis for the objection is as follows:

The County objects to the subject highway-rail grade crossing closures on the basis that the same are not in the best interests of public safety. This opposition is based, in part, on the certain increase in slow-moving farm vehicles traveling on State Route 22 in order to use alternate routes as a result of the proposed closings. The County is well aware of significant conflict, including fatalities, associated with farm equipment traveling on public roads. This conflict is heightened in terms of both the probability and consequences of risk to the public where the road in question is also a state highway.

The above-cited basis for opposition is intended to satisfy the sufficiency requirement of WAC 480-07-660(1)(d) and is not intended as a limitation on issues or waiver of other positions that the County may take at any subsequent proceeding herein.

The County further specifically requests that this matter be scheduled for hearing as an adjudicative proceeding.

If you have any questions about the County's position on this matter, or if you believe any further statement is necessary in order to support the County's request for a hearing, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kenneth W. Harper", written over a circular scribble.

Kenneth W. Harper

KWH:ksl

cc: Client