

57070696

May 30, 2007

Carol Washburn, Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive
PO Box 47250, Olympia, WA.

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WASH. UT. & TR. COMM

RE: Reference No TR-070696

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

I write this letter in opposition
to the closure of public traffic
over the BNSF crossing at Hickox Rd,
south of Mount Vernon.

I have lived and actively farm
in this community about 50 years.
Hickox road is vital to the area
west of the BNSF rail line, as it
is the most direct & quickest
route for emergency vehicles.
The proposed closure will
adversely affect the response
time for any emergency.

I also oppose the closure due
to the fact that the Hickox Road
gives all of us direct connection
to the I-5 south bound ramp, and
for that reason alone, it is not
logical to close Hickox Road.

We realize that BNSF RR can claim that "BMP" discourages public crossings when there are two sets of rail lines. In fact if the RR could have their way, there would be no roads over their rails. I need not drive very far, to find examples of public crossings where there is two sets of RR lines, such as Conway and Blackburn Road in Mt Vernon.

I also find it absurd, to see the very small notice of "Petition to Close Hickox Rd". One very small sign on a power pole on both sides of the RR, and legal notice to only a few parties within 500' of the proposed closure.

Sincerely

Richard H Smith
S & B Farms, Inc

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Mt Vernon

WA, 98273
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