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November 25, 2008

Rail Environmental Manager

Elizabeth Phinney

Washington State Department of Transportation, Freight Systems Division

P.O. Box 47407

Olympia, WA 98504-7407

RE: Comments Regarding Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project – Moses Lake, Washington

Elizabeth Phinney,

First of all I want to thank you for your time November 20, 2008 in Moses Lake to discuss this very important project in our community.

Secondly, I am writing to you in support of the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project, which is a critical economic development and freight mobility project for the Moses Lake, Washington area.

Some of the reasons we support the project are because:

- It will extend and enhance railroad access to vital industries in the Northern Columbia Basin area (around Moses Lake).
- It will greatly improve freight mobility and economic development opportunities in the greater Moses Lake area.
- It will reduce truck traffic and related carbon emissions as freight trains are more than three times as fuel efficient as trucks and only produce 1/3 of the greenhouse gas emissions as trucks.
- It will help to retain jobs of current industrial customers in the Moses Lake area that need rail access in order to be more competitive. The jobs created by the industrial companies that need rail are family wage jobs that are critical to the economic livelihood of Moses Lake and the northern Columbia Basin.

- It will open up hundreds of additional acres of prime industrial property to rail access. As a result of the relatively high price of fuel, many companies are looking for rail-served sites that will allow them to be competitive from a transportation standpoint. By having new rail access to over 1,500 acres of industrial property in the Moses Lake area, hundreds of new family wage jobs would be created which would greatly benefit the economy and the tax base in Central Washington.

As a current rail user we can attest to importance of adequate rail support for healthy industry and economic growth. In conclusion, for the above mentioned reasons, we strongly support the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project.

Thank you for consideration of our comments and we look forward to seeing this project come to fruition.

Sincerely,

Jason McGowan
D & L Foundry Inc.