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WSDOT RAIL OFFICE

November 26, 2008

Elizabeth Phinney
Attn: 34936
WSDOT Rail Office
PO Box 47407
Olympia, WA 98504-7407

Dear Ms. Phinney:

The Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) is pleased to submit this letter in support of the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project. The WPPA represents Washington State's 75 public port districts, which are charged in state statute with promoting economic development in their communities, in a large part through the enhancement of infrastructure necessary to local and regional commerce.

The Port of Moses Lake has adeptly identified the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project as essential to the continued viability of rail-dependent industries in the Moses Lake area, as well as a way to attract new businesses to Grant County. This project exemplifies the critical link between infrastructure investments and regional economic growth and vitality; its successful completion will result in the preservation of jobs and revenue in Moses Lake, and enhance the prospect of future growth in the region.

With the environmental assessment currently under review, the WPPA would like to express ongoing support for the project. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input, and for your continued leadership in promoting critical freight rail infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric D. Johnson".

Eric D. Johnson
Deputy Director
Washington Public Ports Association

Washington Public Ports Association

A Trade Association Representing the 76 Public Port Districts of Washington State