



April 18,2007

Ms. Elizabeth Phirney
WSDOT Rail Office
PO Box 47407
Olympia, WA 98504-7407

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 34936. Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project

Dear Ms. Phinney:

I am writing on behalf of TransCo, a recently formed transportation coalition of more than 80 citizens dedicated to advancing mobility in Central Washington, in reply to the request for input on the impacts of the above project.

Grant County is being called the "darling of economic development" in the State of Washington. Grant County and the central communities of Moses Lake, Ephrata, Quincy, Soap Lake and Warden are experiencing unprecedented growth with the locating of alternative fuel, ag support and information technology industries as a result of the successful recruitment efforts of the Quincy, Ephrata, Moses Lake and Warden Port Districts and the Grant County Economic Development Council.

The industrial property around the Port of Moses Lake and the other industrial parcels served by this project are of prime value to businesses seeking relocation to this growing area as well as current businesses wishing to remain and grow. The improvement of rail transportation especially will have positive impacts on the economic environment of the city of Moses Lake, Grant County and all of Central Washington. We can see no negative environmental effects of this project; alternatives have been explored, making this proposed route the most reasonable.

If I can provide any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 509/765-8845.

Respectfully,

Karen Bonaudi
Chair

Cc: TransCo partners