



ET-16228
CD

RECEIVED

DEC 10 2008

WSDOT RAIL OFFICE

December 8, 2008

Christa Dean

ATTN: 34936

Section of Environmental Analysis Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, SW, Room 1108

Washington, DC 20423-0001

Elizabeth Phinney

ATTN: 34936

Washington State Department of Transportation, Rail Office

P.O. Box 47407

Olympia, WA 98504-7407

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

Dear Ms. Dean & Ms. Phinney

I am writing to you in support of the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project. This project is a critical to the future economic development of the Moses Lake area.

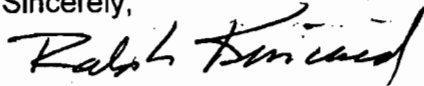
My reasons for supporting this project are:

- It will extend viable railroad service to the large industrial area surrounding the Port of Moses Lake and better serve the other large industrial area in the Wheeler corridor.
- It will improve safety on Moses Lake streets by eliminating many at-grade rail crossings.
- 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.
- 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.

- It will provide the opportunity to abandon the current rail route through the residential and downtown commercial areas of Moses Lake. The current route is not compatible with heavy rail traffic. Any significant rail traffic would create traffic problems and raise more safety issues. Abandoning the current route which occupies significant lakefront property would create opportunities for walking/biking paths and allow for quality residential, commercial and tourism developments.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,



Ralph Kincaid
President/Owner