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December 1, 2008

Christa Dean
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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: Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project – Moses Lake, Washington

To Whom It May Concern:

I support the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project - Moses Lake, Washington.

There are many reasons to support this project, because it is critical for freight mobility and within Grant County, Washington and for the economic development of that area.

There are many reasons to support the project, but among them are: a) it will extend and enhance railroad access to vital industries in the Northern Columbia Basin area (around Moses Lake); b) it will greatly improve freight mobility and economic development opportunities in the greater Moses Lake area; c) it will eliminate a significant number of at-grade rail crossings, which will enhance safety in and around Moses Lake; d) 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; e) it will reduce road damage and congestion on our streets and highways as a railcar can haul three times as much cargo as a truck; f) 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, as 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; g) 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 and 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; and, h) it will eventually open up water front property for a trail or walking/biking path and other tourism developments.

This is a critical project for Grant County in the Moses Lake area and future economic development depends upon it becoming a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular loop followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that tapers to the right.

Brian J. Dano