

E-16202  
CD

December 8, 2008

RE: Northern Columbia Basin Rail Project

Dear Ms. Phinney,

I am writing in regards to the Rail Project Proposal (Segment 1) in the Moses Lake area along Wheeler Road. I own property in Block 41, Unit 91, also in farm Unit 235. My family came here in 1952, when the Columbia Basin project began and we have been farming here since. Farming has always been my life long commitment. I have a profound love for the land and don't expect someone else to change that.

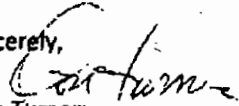
Agriculture is the main industry in the Columbia Basin. It has always been here and will continue as long as there is a need for food. I have watched the changes and development of this area for over fifty years.

The rail project (Segment 1) that is on the board will run through the middle of my property. That area is over 1200 feet long. In the other unit it will run for one mile in the middle of that property. This, of course, will change the status and future development of that property. Not to mention the change in the irrigation system and how it will perform. The system plays a major role in agriculture.

This rail project will affect me and all the surrounding area greatly. Especially the two major roads that border my property. Wheeler Road and Road L will be affected because of the heavy traffic. The project will create two crossings; one on a four-lane road and the other two-lane. The current traffic on these two roads is a major issue and I would strongly urge you to consider the impact in that area. I have seen several accidents at this intersection and have had a family member involved in one. We need to consider the safety and look beyond the economics of the project. To continue this course (Segment 1) will have a negative impact on my business and property and also the community.

I, for one, cannot accept the project going through the middle of my property. I hope that this issue can be resolved in the best interest of all concerned.

Sincerely,

  
Don Turner

(509-765-3187)