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Washington State Senate

SENATOR JANÉA HOLMQUIST
13TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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December 2, 2008

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Section of Environmental Analysis Surface Transportation Board
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Elizabeth Phinney
ATTN: 34936
Washington State Department of Transportation, Rail Office
P.O. Box 47407
Olympia, WA 98504-7407

RE: Comments on Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project – Moses Lake, WA

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of a critical economic development and freight mobility project, the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project located in the Moses Lake, Washington area.

I support the project because it will:

- Retain critical family wage jobs of current industrial customers in the Moses Lake area that need rail access in order to be more competitive.
- Extend and enhance railroad access to vital industries in the Northern Columbia Basin area (around Moses Lake).
- Improve freight mobility and economic development opportunities.
- Enhance safety by eliminating a significant number of at-grade rail crossings.
- Reduce road damage and congestion, because a railcar can haul three times as much cargo as a truck.
- Open up hundreds of additional acres of prime industrial property to rail access. Businesses locating to the property will bring with them hundreds of new family wage jobs.

Christa Dean & Elizabeth Phinney

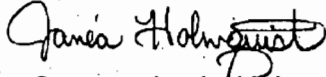
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Thank you for your due consideration of the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project. If you have any questions about my recommendation of this project, please feel free to contact me at my legislative office at 360-786-7624.

Sincerely,



Senator Janéa Holmquist
13th Legislative District