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07/27/2007 04:06 PM

To "Wood, Andrew" <WoodA@WSDOT.WA.GOV>,
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cc

cc

bcc

Subject Moses Lake - Citizen letter to the Columbia Basin Herald

RAIL SERVICE

Posted: Thursday, Jul 26, 2007 - 05:01:29 pm PDT

In the long term, rail service to the Port of Moses Lake is a good idea. In the long term, the route proposed is short sighted. Railroads last a long time. You should understand the impact.

The proposed rail line, still within the city limits of Moses Lake, will cross three busy four lane arterials: Wheeler, Broadway Extended and Stratford Road. It will cross Road L., Kinder Road, Wenatchee Drive, Maple Drive and Loring. Most concerning of all, it will pass through Blacks Addition and alongside Longview Elementary School. This will be a real freight train going up to 25 mph. It will run as frequently and carry as many cars as business dictates.

The only good thing about the proposed route is the length. It is the shortest and therefore the cheapest. Since railroads last over 50 years, why not do it right? Go north from Wheeler along the old abandoned rail line and come into the airport from the north and east, not through town. This route was rejected due to the added cost. In the long term this is the best route.

The proposed route will impact our school children, emergency vehicles, pedestrian and vehicle traffic, land values and our residential areas. Will the sound of the train whistle become a symbol of Moses Lake as familiar as the water towers? I hope not.

Be informed, send your comments to WSDOT. Otherwise, sit back and wait for the whistle.

More information is available at the Web site --

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Rail/NorthernColumbiaBasinRR/>

Comments to WSDOT must be received by Thursday, Aug. 9, 2007. Send them to Elizabeth Phinney, Rail Environmental Manager, by e-mail to phinnee@wsdot.wa.gov, fax at 360-705-6821, or mail to WSDOT, Freight Systems Division, PO Box 47407, Olympia, WA 98505-7404.

Bob Russell

Moses Lake