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April 17, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 17, 2013
Part of
Public Record

Re: **Finance Docket No. 35731**
Ballard Terminal Railroad Company, L.L.C. -- Acquisition
and Operation Exemption -- Woodinville Subdivision

Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 465X)
BNSF Railway Company -- Abandonment
Exemption -- In King County, WA

Dear Ms. Brown:

I received a copy of the attached letter from various State of Washington legislators in support of Ballard's Petitions in the above referenced proceedings, which was mailed to the STB. Inasmuch as the letter does not yet appear on the Board's website, I thought it would be appropriate to e-file the letter.

Respectfully submitted,



Myles L. Tobin
Attorney for Ballard Terminal
Railroad Company, L.L.C.

MLT/ekf
Enclosure (1)

cc: All Parties of Record Via Email and First Class Mail

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



April 2, 2013

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Finance Docket No. 35731
Ballard Terminal Railroad Company, LLC-Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Woodinville
Subdivision

Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 465C)
BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in King County, WA

Dear Ms. Brown,

We are writing to you as members of the Washington State Legislature concerned about preservation of Washington's rail infrastructure. While we appreciate the depth and breadth of the community engagement that the City of Kirkland has embarked upon in the last few years, we encourage the joint development of rail freight, commuter, and excursion uses in conjunction with trail uses on the Eastside Rail Corridor.

Our concerns stem from our belief that existing transportation infrastructure must be retained. We share the concerns of the Eastside TRailway Alliance as expressed by co-chairs, Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak and Woodinville Councilmember Les Rubstello. Specifically, the imminent removal of the 5 mile section of track by Kirkland is counter to facilitating Snohomish-King County discussion on coordinated investments in rails and trails.

We believe that the Eastside Rail Corridor represents an irreplaceable resource and opportunity for the communities along the Corridor and throughout the region. We are also mindful of the efficiencies and carbon offsets inherent in rail transport. Specifically, there are numerous public and private projects in Bellevue that could use this rail corridor to reduce emissions and wear and tear on roadways. Put simply, this unique right-of-way provides opportunities for both economic

State of
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development and recreation while fostering vibrant communities and serving the region's growing transportation needs.

Community and business interests have pointed out to us that the Eastside Rail Corridor is a community asset of great potential value once existing sections are restored sufficiently. In light of these numerous benefits, we support the effort to improve rail between the cities of Snohomish and Woodinville as a first step in realizing this potential.

As strong supporters of integrating trail and rail links, and all of the opportunities they provide, within and between our communities, we encourage a complete and inclusive dialogue between all stakeholders along the Eastside Rail Corridor.

Sincerely,

Rep. Luis Moscoso

Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe

Rep. Gael Tarleton

Rep. Mike Sells

Rep. John McCoy