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WSDOT RAIL OFFICE

December 3, 2008

Andrew Wood PMP
Deputy Rail and Marine Director
State Rail and Marine Office
P. O. Box 47407
Suite SA-17
Olympia, WA 98504-7407

RE: Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project/Port of Moses Lake/Moses Lake,
Washington - Preliminary Environmental Assessment/Comments

Dear Mr. Wood:

Subsequent to the preparation of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment regarding the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project in and near the City of Moses Lake, the city wishes to continue to go on record as supporting the project. This is a critical economic development and freight mobility project for the City of Moses Lake, the Port of Moses Lake, and Grant County. The city finds nothing in the Preliminary Environmental Assessment which changes its mind with regard to the project.

The city supports the project for the following reasons:

1. It will extend and enhance railroad access to industries and industrial properties in the Northern Columbia Basin Area in and around the City of Moses Lake and the Port of Moses Lake.
2. It will greatly improve freight mobility and economic development opportunities in the greater Moses Lake area.
3. It will eliminate a significant number of at-grade rail crossings, which will enhance safety in and around Moses Lake.
4. It will reduce truck traffic and related carbon emissions as freight trains are more fuel efficient than trucks and produce less greenhouse gas emissions than trucks.
5. It will reduce road damage and congestion on the city's streets and highways as a railcar can haul much more cargo than truck.

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6. It will help to retain jobs of current industrial customers in the Moses Lake area that need rail access in order to continue to be competitive. The jobs created by the industrial companies are family wage jobs that are critical to the economic livelihood of Moses Lake and the surrounding area.
7. It will open up hundreds of additional acres of prime industrial property to rail access. Many industrial companies are looking for rail served sites which will allow them to be competitive from a transportation standpoint. By having new rail access to several hundred acres of industrial property in the Moses Lake area, many new family wage jobs could be created which would greatly benefit the economy and the tax base in and around the City of Moses Lake.
8. It will eventually open up water front property for a trail activity or walking/biking path and other potential tourism developments.

For the reasons mentioned, the City of Moses Lake, as stated previously, continues to support the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project.

Very truly yours



Joseph K. Gavinski
City Manager

JKG:jt