



September 15, 2016

Hon. Rod Runyon, Commission Chair,
and Hon. Commissioners Steve Kramer and Scott Hege
Wasco Board of County Commissioners
511 Washington St, Ste 302
The Dalles, OR 97058

email: KathyW@co.wasco.or.us

Dear Commission Chair Runyon and Commissioners:

The Oregon Rail Users' League (ORULE) supports Union Pacific's infrastructure improvement project. Called the Mosier Double Track, this approximately four-mile rail improvement project will benefit almost everyone in the Pacific Northwest's transportation system by allowing additional fluidity and eliminating a major bottleneck. This is important to the various members of ORULE.

Completion of the project allow two trains to pass one another on parallel track without stopping on a rail siding. This project will create a safe and efficient passing lane for trains, driving public benefits for Mosier residents and Oregon infrastructure (e.g. I -84). Union Pacific's existing Mosier rail siding is too short for passing trains. Without a new line of track in Mosier, Union Pacific will be unable to move trains efficiently in the Pacific Northwest (PNW).

Most importantly, a double track will enhance the movement of Oregon products to market using the safest, most environmentally friendly mode of ground freight transportation. This project will alleviate the pressure for domestic intermodal, grain, automotive, lumber and many other commodities Union Pacific moves for its customers in the PNW. The project is not tied to the growth of oil, coal and other train traffic.

Building a double track will also bring Mosier and the region significant benefits. It will

- reduce train noise and emissions from idling locomotives,
- eliminate the need to hold and meet trains on the existing rail siding, and
- reduce horn blowing from trains moving past stationary trains parked in the siding.

Union Pacific currently moves a wide array of commodities through Oregon daily. 20-25 trains per day typically move through this area and plans are in place to continue moving a similar product mix in the future. This project will allow safer, more efficient, transport of goods through the Gorge. The Mosier Double Track project is required to support the needs of current customers and will eliminate the most significant operational bottleneck in the PNW.

Thank you for your consideration of this important regional infrastructure improvement project, and ORULE urges your strong support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Didelius', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rob Didelius, President
Oregon Rail Users' League (ORULE)