



Skagit Regional Health
Skagit Valley Hospital · Skagit Regional Clinics

November 1, 2012

GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-lead Agencies
1100 112th Avenue Northwest, Suite 400
Bellevue, Washington 98004

RE: Request for scoping review

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter on behalf of Skagit Regional Health in regards to the scoping process for the environmental review associated with the GPT / BNSF Custer Spur project.

I am requesting that you investigate and study the impacts caused by the proposed project on the level of service to and from Skagit Valley Hospital in Mount Vernon and to and from our multiple clinic sites in Skagit and Snohomish counties.

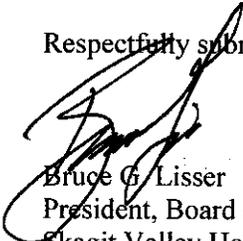
The proposed increase in train utilization along the existing tracks is a concern that needs to be addressed. Our hospital district takes in approximately 10 crossings beginning with the Fir Island Road crossing in Conway to the south and ending with the Hoag Road crossing in Mount Vernon to the north.

Travel time during an emergency is a critical component to the quality of care that our patients receive and any delays can have a negative impact on outcomes. Delays caused by having to re-route around crossings that are closed due to extended train traffic will increase the time it takes to access the hospital and clinics.

I ask that you take our concerns regarding potential effects on patient care seriously during your environmental impact review process by studying the impact of increased train traffic on emergent access to health care services and addressing specific solutions.

Thank you for ensuring that our concerns are addressed through your scoping and environmental review process. If you need additional information, you may contact me at 360-419-7442.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce G. Lisser
President, Board of Commissioners
Skagit Valley Hospital District No. 1

