

April 10, 2017

Dear Legislators,

I took several days to compose this letter, because I didn't want to come across as argumentative or disrespectful. Please know that I have the utmost respect for your positions and your exceptional responsibility to all your constituents and the entire Washington State population. I understand that, coming from farming communities yourselves, you will always consider farming issues with great seriousness. You may feel that the surrounding small towns are not significant to the farmers today, like they were in years past, and in all honesty, they are not. But, please consider that the reverse is also true. The farmers are not the key economic driver for small towns any more either. Today, we must seek outside our jurisdictions to find ways to bring new economic opportunities to our towns. From every vantage point, a maintained and supported Iron Horse State Park/ John Wayne Trail provides an opportunity for economic vitality for Rosalia, and any of the other bordering towns, that nothing else we might search for could accomplish.

Please, please, consider the damage that will be compounded by refusing funds to mitigate bordering landowner concerns and to maintain the trail for future visitors and our business economy. Wisely using and maintaining this trail would provide the backbone for rural Eastern Washington's vitality. Don't pull the rug out from under us because of a few outspoken citizens who have made it difficult for the rest to have open and honest discussions with you.

Respectfully,

Nanette Konishi

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