



**Ferry County Rail Trail Partners**  
**PO Box 3**  
**Malo WA 99150**

29 July 2009

City of Grand Forks  
7217 4th St  
Grand Forks, BC VOH 1H0

RE: Kettle Falls to Laurier Washington Omnitrax proposed abandonment of rail line

The Ferry County Rail Trail Partners were formed to preserve our local 29 mile railroad right of way for future economic benefit. Our organization fully supports your efforts to preserve the rail service to the City of Grand Forks British Columbia, as it is the sole rail link into the United States connecting to Kettle Falls Washington and points beyond. It is an essential link to markets for goods produced in your region that simply cannot be effectively, efficiently and economically moved otherwise.

As you may be aware, Ferry County was unsuccessful in keeping our own 28-mile rail line from being abandoned and dismantled three years ago, so we greatly appreciate your position. Our United States Trails Act allows for the preservation of decommissioned rail lines via railbanking and conversion to a public use trail. The trail preserves the line by discouraging encroachment and preserving the underlying ballast rock so that in the future, a rail line may return, replacing rails, ties and switching equipment to reactivate what had been a vital transportation link in the past.

Preserving the rail service to and from Ground Forks BC is our first and foremost desire. Alternately the FC RTP would like to offer, in the spirit of community, that we are at the ready to help coordinate the connecting and preserving this rail corridor as public use trails that will benefit all our communities.

Respectfully

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