

RESOLUTION NO. 1795

RESOLUTION PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF REMOTE CONTROL LOCOMOTIVES
BY RAILROADS OPERATING WITHIN THE INCORPORATED CITY BOUNDARIES OF THE
CITY OF HERMISTON

WHEREAS, the City of Hermiston, Oregon has a duty to provide for the public safety of its Citizens; and

WHEREAS, Railroads operate within the incorporated boundaries of the City of Hermiston, over public and private highway rail crossings and on property accessible to persons of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, all crossings within the City of Hermiston carry more than a hundred School bus crossings per day, thousands of average daily trips (ADT's) of local personal passenger car, commercial and industrial truck traffic; and

WHEREAS, the "Umatilla Turn" within the City of Hermiston runs from north to south approximately 3 miles, and intersects the entirety of the community with all major east/west streets and avenues crossing this section of rail line; and

WHEREAS, there are eight (8) at-grade crossings within the City of Hermiston, five (5) of which do not have any type of gated barrier to prevent vehicular traffic from accidentally encroaching the area of the track; and

WHEREAS, a significant amount of rail cargo traveling through and moving within the City of Hermiston consists of extremely hazardous materials including but not limited to Anhydrous Ammonia.; and

WHEREAS, Railroad equipment is known to present significant danger to persons and property from collision, derailment, and possible release of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, operation of a railroad is traditionally conducted with the use of locomotives manned by individuals who are rigorously certified and qualified by the standards established by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA); and

WHEREAS, Union Pacific Railroad's "Umatilla Turn" operates in close proximity of the Umatilla and Columbia Rivers both critical waterways for the continued viability of the City and region; and

WHEREAS, "Umatilla Turn" operates upon excessive grades on portions of that rail line;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Hermiston requests that the Federal Railroad Administration prohibit the Union Pacific Railroad from operating any remote control locomotive within the incorporated boundaries of the City.

PASSED by the Common Council this 13th day of November, 2006

SIGNED by the Mayor this 13th day of November, 2006

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY RECORDER

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