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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
BOCKETS

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January 27, 2000

FRA-99-6439-35

Docket Clerk  
DOT Central Docket Management Facility  
400 Seventh St., SW Plaza-401  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: Federal Railroad Administration  
Horn Bans

To Whom It May Concern:

The recent local furor over whether to ban the blowing of train horns at municipal crossings has encouraged me to comment. My residence is more than three miles from several railroad crossings, and yet each night our sleep is disrupted by train horns. We even have a fan continually running to help mask these noises, but to no avail. I can't remember the last night of uninterrupted sleep we've had.

The argument seems to center on the safety of those who ignore crossing guards. Should everyone's peace and quiet be sacrificed to protect those who are so unwise as to drive around flashing crossing guards? The logic escapes me.

One solution to making "safer" crossings I have yet to see offered: Extend the length of the crossing arms to totally occlude the roadway. Longer arms, bigger counterweights, job done. If the guards cannot be driven around, there is no longer a need to sound horns at crossings. Unfortunately, this means an expenditure of millions of dollars by the railroad companies, and hence, it won't be done. The horns are free.

Please consider this solution--or any solution--that will provide peace and quiet to our neighborhoods.

Sincerely yours,

Donald E. McNamara, DDS

DEM/mm  
cc: Rep. Tim Roemer