

Do Trains Need To Occupy Space Along Marine Bounded Lands?

Is it time to modify the eminent domain regulations that were established in a time that folks truly believed these regulations were for the betterment of the nation? Perhaps it is no longer in the best interests of the nation for mega-corporations to be granted special privileges relative to land use.

Is the task of local regulation of land use impeded by existing eminent domain regulations? I think the answer to this is 'Yes!' Should we work to change this situation? Are we afraid to address this issue? If we are afraid, why? Could Bellingham and Whatcom County become leaders in the process of changing federal regulations. Why would we choose to do such a thing? Would we be able to produce a better scheme? Can we involve all of the people in decisions? Doubts are a great enemy.

The questions are easy to ask. The answers live in our hearts. The mechanics are to be developed in the future. How far does the future extend? In the worlds of mathematics and logic the truth of a starting point may be arbitrarily established. That is the rule. If we were proponents of either mathematics or logic we could set the truth of our axioms and make them inviolate.

Try this on for size: Railways tunneled under Bellingham Bay could better serve our community's needs.

Original uses of railways in Bellingham:

1. Serving PAF.
2. Serving GP.
3. Serving fish freezing facilities.
4. Transporting lumber to markets in the East.

These functions made good sense before 2000 but they are no longer viable.

If we need railroads, do they need to occupy land on the water's edge? Let us be honest. Let us be fair. Let us have the entire community participate in whatever we do. Let us operate a society where each voice carries equal weight with any other voice. And, remember to be honest about the process. It may not be enough to offer public input—If we fail to obtain balanced input we fail to be democratic.

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