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DEAR MS. DIXON,

1 I LIVE AND WORK IN THE COMMUNITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI AND AM WRITING TO STRONGLY OPPOSE THE SHIPMENT OF NUCLEAR WASTE THROUGH MY COMMUNITY. I TEACH IN A PRE-SCHOOL THAT IS LOCATED IN A FORMER TRAIN STATION AT 414 NORTH GORE IN THE HISTORICAL DOWNTOWN DISTRICT. OBVIOUSLY, THE RAILROAD TRACKS RUN PARALLEL TO OUR BUILDING, NO MORE THAN 10-20 FEET AWAY. I HAVE WORKED IN THE SCHOOL FOR SEVEN YEARS AND HAVE WITNESSED ENOUGH "CLOSE CALLS" AT THE CROSSING IN FRONT OF OUR SCHOOL TO WARRANT OPPOSITION TO THESE RAIL SHIPMENTS. THIS PAST WEEK, AS THE CROSSING GATES WERE DOWN AND LIGHTS FLASHING, A CAR ATTEMPTED TO DRIVE AROUND THEM, CAUSING THE GATES TO GO UP PREMATURELY AND OTHER CARS FOLLOWED SUIT. WHAT ACTUALLY CAME DOWN THE TRACKS WAS A "CLEANER CAR", AS THE CHILDREN CALL IT, BUT WHAT IF IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A TRAIN? WE'VE WITNESSED SEVERAL CARS BECOME CONFUSED AT THE CROSSING AND ACTUALLY MAKE A TURN ONTO THE TRACKS, THINKING IT WAS A STREET. BESIDES MY CONCERN WITH VEHICLE/TRAIN COLLISIONS, I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THE FOUR DOZEN CHILDREN WHO ATTEND OUR SCHOOL AND PLAY IN THE SCHOOLYARD 10-20 FEET FROM THE TRACKS. THERE IS, ADMITTEDLY, RISK INVOLVED WITH THESE SHIPMENTS AND I, ALONG WITH MY CO-WORKERS AND PARENTS OF OUR CHILDREN, DO NOT WANT THIS RISK FACTOR HANGING OVER OUR HEADS.

SINCERELY,
NANCY SIEGEL