CITY OF BATTLE GROUND
RESOLUTION NO. 24-04

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED AND FUTURE EXPANSION OF THE FREIGHT RAIL DEPENDENT USE (FRDU) AFFECTING THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND AND ADJACENT COUNTY LANDS AS WELL AS THE CHANGE TO HEAVY INDUSTRY ZONING SOUTH OF THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND.

WHEREAS, the Freight Rail Dependent Use (FRDU) is slated to be expanded to include heavy industrial use and zoning to the south of the City of Battle Ground with potential expansion along the entire line; and

WHEREAS, the City of Battle Ground has no current or proposed customers for the railroad and gains no positive economic impact from reactivation of the railway; and

WHEREAS, train traffic adjacent to residential neighborhoods will decrease property values resulting in a probable loss for the city's corresponding tax base; and

WHEREAS, many of the crossings in Battle Ground are in residential areas and will require an audible horn lasting at least 15 seconds, decreasing the livability and small-town feel of our city; and

WHEREAS, millions of dollars in government funding will be required to upgrade and maintain this line which would be better served elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, train traffic will likely increase potential delays in emergency vehicle response, adversely affecting our medically fragile population; and

WHEREAS, the multiple railroad crossings in Battle Ground are at-grade and non-signalized. They are also located near high traffic areas frequented by youth, such as the Battle Ground Skate & Bike Park, thus posing a safety hazard.

WHEREAS, the City of Battle Ground would prefer to explore the possibility of tourism related activities for this rail; and

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Battle Ground as follows:

1. Any reactivation of the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad within city limits would adversely affect Battle Ground's economic health and livability.

2. The City Council strongly urges the immediate cessation of the proposed and future expansion of the Freight Rail Dependent Use (FRDU).

3. The Clerk of the City of Battle Ground is hereby directed to forward copies of the resolution to the Clark County Council, all cities within Clark County, legislators of the 17th, 18th, 20th, and 49th districts, the Washington State Department of Commerce, the Governor of the State of Washington.

4. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption by the City Council.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND IN AN OPEN MEETING this 18th day of March 2024

CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON:

By: _____
Troy McCoy, Mayor

Attest:

By: _____
Elizabeth Halili, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

By: _____
Kirk Ehlis, City Attorney