

WASHINGTON AND IDAHO RAILROAD COMPANY.

APRIL 17, 1888 —Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DARLINGTON, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 38.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 38) granting the Washington and Idaho Railroad Company the right of way through Cœur d'Aléne Indian Reservation, submit the following report:

No opposition from any source has developed to the passage of this bill. The Indians, the parties most interested, are favorable to it, as will be seen from the following letter:

WASHINGTON, July 23, 1887.

Hon. A. B. UPSHAW,
Assistant Commissioner Indian Affairs:

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We need a railroad and all my people want one. We buy many things, and a railroad will bring them nearer to us and cheaper. We also raise a great deal of wheat for sale. If we had a railroad through our reservation it would save us a great deal of trouble and expense in getting our wheat and other things to market, and besides our people would have cheaper means of travel. We have already sent a petition asking that the Washington and Idaho Railroad be permitted to run through the reservation. It will give my people work to do and they can make money. My whole people want this road. This road will run from Farmington, Wash., to the Old Mission.

This road will accommodate most of my people. We want but one road now. This will be enough, and it will not take so much land as two, and not kill so much stock. We think we know best where the railroad should run. We wish you to allow the road to be surveyed and located now, and, if possible, allow it to be graded at once, so that we can get our crops to market. We make a great amount of wheat for sale. We have sold as much in one year as 125,000 bushels, and we will make more in the future. We are more interested in the railroad than any one else, and we feel that our minds ought to be heard about it.

In winter our wagon roads are bad, almost impassable, and it hurts our stock to pull our crops to market. Our land is black and sticky in winter and our hills high. We want the railroad and we want it now. * * *

ANDREW (his x mark) SELTICE.

The committee recommend the passage of the bill.