



Letters to the editor

I am writing on the behalf of the Bellingham Society of Model Engineers, to thank *The Bellingham Herald* for its extensive coverage of the plight of our organization. After eleven years building the largest model railroad in the state, it's a crushing blow to be evicted. But we're encouraged by the more than 2,000 people who visited us during our final two days. If their numbers and enthusiasm are any indication, our organization is clearly an asset to the people of Bellingham. The expressions on the faces of visitors like Gladys and Benjamin Libolt (as pictured on page B-1 of Sunday's paper) say it all.

While several surrounding towns have already approached us, we'd like to rebuild in downtown Bellingham. We've had some promising conversations with the City, the Port of Bellingham, and owners of commercial downtown property, and hope to secure a new location very soon. Our goal is to have a new facility open to the public as soon as possible, housing a model train and railroad history display that is even better than the one we must now demolish. Hopefully, the overwhelming support of the community will convince our next landlord to grant us a long-term lease so that after working for so many years to create something of



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such value, we never again find ourselves in a similar situation.

We invite everyone to visit our website (www.bsme.org) and look forward to the day when we can invite the entire community to once again enter a magical little world filled with model trains.

David S. Cohn

Bellingham

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