

San Juan County Council

RICK HUGHES – CHAIR

District #2

350 Court Street, No. 1, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Off: (360) 378-2898 Direct: (360) 370-7474

September 30, 2014

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of the elected officials listed below, representing Clallam, Lincoln, Snohomish and San Juan Counties, and cities therein, the City of Anacortes, Town of Sidney, BC and Town of Friday Harbor, I am writing to express our collective concern with the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) budget submittal to the State Office of Financial Management. Please also find the letters enclosed from Island, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties. It is our belief that the budget, and the reductions proposed therein, unfairly and disproportionately target the state ferry system and, in turn, ferry dependent communities. All of us are familiar with, and many of us participated directly in, the many conversations regarding the future of the state's transportation budget last legislative session. We understand the need to make difficult decisions. However, we believe it is important to, at a minimum, retain current levels of service on all ferry routes - to support the increased traffic that has been reflected.

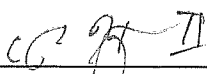
The future of the ferry system is now. Investments, not reductions, need to be made respecting new boats and upgrades to outdated and undersized terminal facilities. Planning to accommodate increased growth must also continue. We don't want to backtrack on the progress made over the past several years to improve service. Ferries transport people (commuter and tourist alike), goods, and services every day of the year just like state highways do. They knit together cross-sound communities, provide the pathway to market, and are an essential economic catalyst.


The state ferry system is not a transportation curiosity and thus should not be treated in the budget as such. It should instead be treated for what it is - a vital link in the state's transportation system.

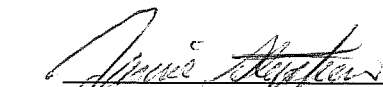
We urge you to revisit and re-evaluate WSDOT's budget submittal.

Sincerely,

San Juan County Council


Rick Hughes, Chair


Bob Jarman, Vice Chair

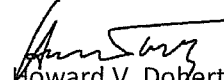

Jamie Stephens, Member

City of Anacortes
Mayor Laurie Gere

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


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Jim McEntire


Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

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Brian Sullivan
Terry Ryan
Stephanie Wright

Town of Friday Harbor
Mayor Carrie Lacher
Town Manager Duncan Wilson

Town of Sidney, BC
Mayor Larry Cross

C: Lynn Peterson, Secretary of Transportation
Lynne Griffith, Assistant Secretary for WA Ferries

Island County Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 5000
Coupeville, Washington 98239-5000

Phone: (360) 679-7354
From Camano: (360) 629-4522
From S. Whidbey: (360) 321-5111
Fax: (360) 679-7381
www.islandcounty.net

September 22, 2014

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

We are writing to express our collective concern with the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) budget submittal to the State Office of Financial Management. It is our belief that the budget and the reductions proposed therein, unfairly and disproportionately target the state ferry system and, in turn, ferry dependent communities. We are familiar with, and many of us participated directly in, the many conversations regarding the future of the state's transportation budget last legislative session. We understand the need to make difficult decisions. However, we believe it is important to, at a minimum, retain current levels of service on all ferry routes - to support the increased traffic that has been reflected.

The future of the ferry system is now. Investments, not reductions, need to be made respecting new boats and upgrades to outdated and undersized terminal facilities. Planning to accommodate increased growth must also continue. We don't want to backtrack on the progress made over the past several years to improve service.

Ferries transport people (commuter and tourist alike), goods, and services every day of the year just like state highways do. They knit together cross-sound communities, provide the pathway to market, and are an essential economic catalyst.

We urge you to treat the Washington State Ferries system as a vital link in the state's transportation network - and revisit and re-evaluate WSDOT's budget submittal.

Best regards,
Board of County Commissioners
Island County, Washington



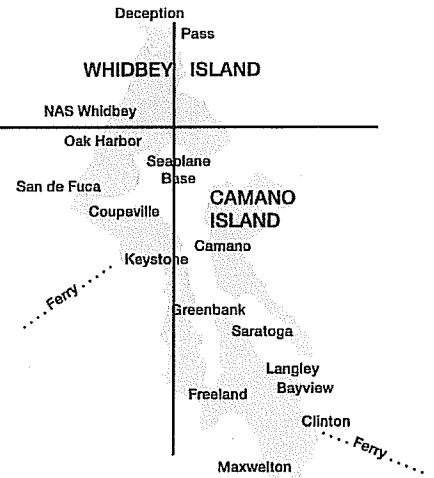
Jill Johnson, Chair



Aubrey Vaughan, Member



Helen Price Johnson, Member





1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Phil Johnson, District 1 David W. Sullivan, District 2 John Austin, District 3

September 22, 2014

Washington State Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
Lynn Peterson, Secretary of Transportation
PO Box 47316
Olympia, WA
98504-7316

Dear Ms. Peterson:


We recognize the challenge facing Washington Department of Transportation in creating a budget which addresses the diverse transportation requirements of our State.

We urge you to consider the State Ferry System as an integral part of our highway system. Counties in the Puget Sound are reliant upon the ferries for economic stability. San Juan, Island, and Jefferson Counties are particularly affected when there are reductions or interruptions of service. Our county suffered economic loss when the steel electric ferries were precipitously withdrawn from service. The importance of a dependable ferry system for San Juan County is obvious.


We know you will be pressed to maintain or increase transportation services throughout the state. We stand ready to partner with you to encourage the passage of a truly comprehensive transportation funding package.

Thank you for your service to our State.

Sincerely,


John Austin, Chairman

David Sullivan, Member


Phil Johnson, Member

Cc: Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) and Washington State Governor Jay Inslee.