

June 13, 2005

Ms. Carole Washburn
Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
P. O. Box 47259
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Docket No. TS-050443
Feet Wet Partners, "Saratoga Shuttle," Lauver/Solin

Dear Ms. Washburn:

I am honored to have the opportunity to write this letter in support of Mike Lauver's and John Solin's application to the UTC for their proposed "Saratoga Shuttle" passenger-only ferry service between Whidbey Island (Oak Harbor and Coupeville) Camano Island and Mukilteo.

For a number of years communities surrounded by water and offering traditional "land-based public transportation" have recognized that a "marine water bus system" makes *sound* transportation sense.

Local, as well as regional transportation boards have concluded that for this concept to be financially feasible it will require participation between the public and private sector.

The Oak Harbor Municipal Pier project's primary function is public transportation. Thus, the concept addresses not only current but especially future transportation needs; it is the next generation multi-modal transportation in Washington State, in Island County.

The approval of this application will be an extremely important step towards meeting a need that continues to grow more evident every day. Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Patty Cohen
Mayor