



THE OFFICIAL DESTINATION MARKETING ORGANIZATION

December 18, 2015

Chairman David W. Danner  
Ms. Anne Rendahl  
Mr. Philip Jones  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

I am writing to voice my strong support - and the support of Seattle's tourism industry - in allowing Ride the Ducks to return to operation pending Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission compliance, without waiting for the City of Seattle to enact additional stipulations.

Considering the Ride the Ducks' incredible record of operation over 19 years and hosting some three million passengers, it would be inappropriate to keep the company from providing its services as it is willing to implement and comply with new safety and operational requirements. These are requirements proposed by the state and generally operational issues suggested by the City of Seattle.

Many transportation companies experience accidents and other events that result in inspections, but few are forced to cease business operations entirely during such periods. As a member of Seattle's business community, I can attest it sends a chilling message to other small businesses in our city. Seattle tour and transportation companies, which are essential to visitor mobility, employ Seattleites and serve our community in myriad other ways.

Ride the Ducks has been, and remains, a trusted business partner of many city attractions, hotels and Visit Seattle, providing tours, packaging and consistently offering its staff and resources abroad in our collective destination marketing efforts. That translates to economic impact and job growth for the City of Seattle.

Moreover, Ride the Ducks generates 130 well-paying jobs that support our local economy. Right now, the company is doing everything it can to preserve its employees' livelihood, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability.

For these reasons and many others, it is my hope and expectation that you will also extend your support for Ride the Ducks' return to service, once transportation investigators put their stamp of approval on its vehicles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Norwalk".

Tom Norwalk  
President & CEO

CC: Governor Jay Inslee