



0488

1           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER:  Would you please take  
2 your seats?  We'll begin.  Good afternoon.  This is a  
3 public hearing of the Washington Utilities and  
4 Transportation Commission in Matter TS-040650.  That  
5 is the application for a passenger-only ferry of Aqua  
6 Express between Kingston and Seattle.

7           It is a formal hearing in the sense that we,  
8 and that is, the Commissioners up here, sit as judges  
9 in the case.  I'm Marilyn Showalter, Chair of the  
10 Commission, and next to me are my two colleagues,  
11 Commissioner Dick Hemstad and Commissioner Patrick  
12 Oshie.  Also sitting next to me is Administrative Law  
13 Judge Ann Rendahl, who will have a role to play in a  
14 minute.

15           As you may be able to see, there is a court  
16 reporter taking down every word in the way that any  
17 judicial hearing at this level usually has.  This is  
18 not like a city council meeting.  It is important  
19 that if you have come to comment, that you keep your  
20 remarks directed to the purpose of this hearing,  
21 which in this case is your testimony on the need or  
22 lack of need for the application, or your support or  
23 lack of support.

24           There are quite a number of people who have  
25 signed up, so I would ask that you keep your remarks,

0489

1 if possible, to about three minutes. It sounds like  
2 a short period of time, but, actually, there is quite  
3 a bit that you can say in three minutes.

4 Also, if someone has already made the types  
5 of comments that you would like to make, it is  
6 sufficient for you to say, I agree with Mr. So and So  
7 or Ms. So and So, and it will be as if you had said  
8 those comments yourself.

9 This is the public hearing, which means it's  
10 the time for citizens to come and make their wishes  
11 and positions known, but we have also already had  
12 part of the formal hearing of the parties involved in  
13 the case, and that is the Applicant, Aqua Express, as  
14 well as the Staff of the Commission, also Kitsap  
15 Ferry. You see at our -- excuse me, Kitsap  
16 Transportation Authority.

17 You see at the counsel table here Mr. David  
18 Wiley -- you might raise your hand. He represents  
19 the Applicant, and also Don Trotter, who represents  
20 the Commission Staff.

21 Now, originally, this application was  
22 opposed by the Inlandboatmen's Union, and the Union  
23 was a formal party in this case. However, yesterday,  
24 the Union withdrew from the case and withdrew its  
25 opposition. Therefore, there is no opposition among

0490

1 the formal parties in this case, but you, as  
2 citizens, may have your own individual opinions, pro  
3 or con, and we welcome them.

4 Another point that I would like to make is  
5 the importance of being a respectful audience, both  
6 in respect for the person making a comment and this  
7 Commission and also our court reporter. Therefore,  
8 if you would please remain respectfully silent when  
9 other people are making their comments, that is,  
10 please do not applaud, do not boo, do not make side  
11 comments. For that matter, please do not have any  
12 side conversations in the room. If you need to have  
13 a conversation, take it outside of the room. And  
14 that way, I think, we will get through this in a  
15 reasonable period of time in a civilized way.

16 At this point, I'm going to turn the hearing  
17 over to Judge Rendahl to conduct the swearing in and  
18 call you up as witnesses.

19 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you, Chairwoman  
20 Showalter. Again, my name is Ann Rendahl, I'm the  
21 Administrative Law Judge and my role is to make these  
22 proceedings go smoothly, so what I'm going to do is  
23 have all of those who wish to testify this afternoon  
24 stand up and I will swear you all in together. And  
25 then, when you come up to the podium, you can state

0491

1 your name and address and we'll get all the detail  
2 information. So if you wish to testify, please stand  
3 up, raise your right hand.

4 Whereupon,

5 ALL POTENTIAL PUBLIC SPEAKERS,

6 having been first duly sworn, were called as

7 witnesses herein and testified as follows:

8 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you. Now, what  
9 I'm going to do is go on the list that Staff has --  
10 the list of persons, I'm going to go by and call your  
11 name. If you can remember, because I know it's  
12 somewhat nerve-wracking to come up and speak into a  
13 microphone here at the podium for all of us, remember  
14 to just slow down a bit so the court reporter can  
15 take down everything. I may have to remind you, so I  
16 hope I don't make you more nervous by interrupting,  
17 but it's important to create a record, and that's  
18 what we're doing today.

19 Oh, and yes, could everyone please turn off  
20 their cell phones, because that does create a  
21 disruption. So if you can turn off your cell phones  
22 or pagers or beepers or anything that might go beep,  
23 that would be helpful.

24 Okay. Representative Beverly Woods. Thank  
25 you. If you could state your name and your address

0492

1 for the record.

2 MS. WOODS: Thank you very much. My name is  
3 Beverly Woods. I reside at 23978 Vinland Terrace  
4 Northwest, Poulsbo, Washington.

5 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you. And are you here  
6 in your individual capacity or in your capacity as a  
7 state representative?

8 MS. WOODS: As an individual resident of  
9 this area.

10 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you. Please go  
11 ahead.

12 MS. WOODS: Thank you very much, and thank  
13 the Commission for having this hearing and for  
14 calling on me today. I want to give just a brief  
15 background of why -- where we got to today and why I  
16 feel we desperately need passenger-only ferry service  
17 from Kingston to Seattle.

18 We've been trying, through the legislature,  
19 for many, many years, 12 plus, to get passenger-only  
20 ferry service. We were very close in obtaining that  
21 through Ref. 49, when we put our budget for  
22 Washington State Ferries in the motor vehicle excise  
23 tax, but then along came 695 and stripped that money  
24 away with a \$30 car tab.

25 We have had numerous legislative budgets.

0493

1 The money was in for the Kingston ferry on Referendum  
2 51, but it did not pass by the majority of the  
3 citizens across the state. We have tried for several  
4 years of putting together a private passenger-only  
5 ferry service from Kingston to Seattle, and I'm here  
6 today to say that we need the service and that the  
7 joint venture between Aqua Express and Kitsap Transit  
8 is a good one for the citizens in this area.

9           We have surveyed citizens as recently as  
10 within the last five years. We know that people have  
11 moved to the Kingston area and North Kitsap area  
12 because they thought that we were going to get  
13 passenger-only ferry service when we were supposed to  
14 start it, as late as the year 2000.

15           This is a new run. It is not currently in  
16 competition with Washington State Ferries. We don't  
17 have a ferry service that runs from Kingston to  
18 Seattle; only Kingston to Edmonds. And furthermore,  
19 this passenger-only ferry service will help to  
20 greatly relieve congestion on both sides of the  
21 water. On our side of the water, on Miller Bay Road,  
22 down to Highway 305, and 305 all the way to the  
23 Winslow Ferry, as well as congestion from people who  
24 now take their cars to Edmonds and then drive down to  
25 Seattle, or wherever their destination needs to be on

0494

1 a regular basis.

2 This helps get people out of their cars, it  
3 provides a reasonable-priced service for folks to  
4 commute to work back and forth between Kingston and  
5 Seattle.

6 I have led the fight in fighting for budget  
7 language in the legislature for the last five years  
8 that I've been there for passenger-only ferry service  
9 in the Puget Sound region, especially Kingston. And  
10 I have to tell you today, after this last legislative  
11 session, when we increased the gas tax and sales tax  
12 on new and used autos, that it was not the will of  
13 the majority of the legislature to fund this project,  
14 unfortunately.

15 After fighting all of these fights, I'm here  
16 today to say that it is in the best interest of my  
17 constituents, the citizens of this county, and  
18 especially North Kitsap, to have this Aqua  
19 Express-Kitsap Transit partnership in providing this  
20 necessary service from Seattle to Kingston and back.  
21 I'm happy to answer any questions.

22 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you. Are there any  
23 questions from counsel? Any questions from the  
24 Bench?

25 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you.



0495

1 MS. WOODS: Thank you so much.

2 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you very much. Is  
3 Kathryn Quade here?

4 MS. QUADE: Yes, good afternoon,  
5 Commissioners.

6 JUDGE RENDAHL: If you could state your name  
7 and spell your last name for the record.

8 MS. QUADE: Yes, my name is Kathryn Quade,  
9 and that's spelled Q-u-a-d-e.

10 JUDGE RENDAHL: And could you state your  
11 address, please?

12 MS. QUADE: My address is 18193 Tenth Avenue  
13 Northeast, Poulsbo, Washington.

14 JUDGE RENDAHL: And are you here in your  
15 capacity as an individual or in another capacity?

16 MS. QUADE: I'm here as an individual.

17 JUDGE RENDAHL: Please go ahead.

18 MS. QUADE: I'll keep my comments very  
19 brief. I've always supported passenger-only ferry  
20 services in Kitsap County. I feel that our marine  
21 waterways are very underused. This service will not  
22 only provide options for our north end residents, but  
23 also people across the Olympic Peninsula, and it will  
24 relieve congestion that divides the City of Poulsbo  
25 in half on Highway 305. I stand in firm favor of

0496

1 this. Thank you. Any questions?

2 JUDGE RENDAHL: Any questions from Counsel  
3 or the Bench? Thank you very much.

4 MR. WILEY: Your Honor, I understand we have  
5 a third elected official in the room who's just  
6 joined, Commissioner Angel, I believe, from the  
7 Kitsap County Commissioners.

8 JUDGE RENDAHL: Please come forward, Ms.  
9 Angel.

10 MS. ANGEL: Good afternoon. I'm Jan Angel,  
11 and my address is 5184 Granada Place, Southeast, Port  
12 Orchard, Washington.

13 JUDGE RENDAHL: Is Granada spelled with a D?

14 MS. ANGEL: G-r-a-n-a-d-a.

15 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you. And are you here  
16 in your capacity as an individual or a  
17 representative?

18 MS. ANGEL: As a county commissioner.

19 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay. Please go ahead.

20 MS. ANGEL: I strongly support the  
21 application from Aqua Express and I am pleased to see  
22 the private enterprise step up to the plate with  
23 Kitsap County and the Port of Kingston and to  
24 initiate a service from Kingston to downtown Seattle.  
25 We feel that this is a vitally needed service for our

0497

1 citizens and something that would be greatly used and  
2 appreciated. Thank you.

3 JUDGE RENDAHL: Is Mr. Fry, Bill Fry, in the  
4 audience?

5 MR. FRY: Good afternoon. Bill Fry, that's  
6 F-r-y. I live on -- where do I live? Washington  
7 Boulevard Northeast, half a block from the ferry  
8 terminal. I retired in Seattle about 10 years ago  
9 and bought over here. I heard that there would be a  
10 ferry sometime, no promises exactly, but as a retired  
11 person on a fixed income, it not only saves time, but  
12 it saves money, also. So consequently, the last few  
13 years, I haven't been going to Seattle to see my  
14 friends like I would like to. I'm also representing  
15 two other people, Gordon Cheadle --

16 JUDGE RENDAHL: Could you spell that last  
17 name, please?

18 MR. FRY: C-h-e-a-d-l-e, and Noni Headley, I  
19 think it's H-e-a-d-l-e-y, she's in the process of  
20 moving over here when her house sells in Seattle.  
21 These are also two retired people, and it would be  
22 very beneficial to people on fixed incomes to be able  
23 to take advantage of what Seattle has to offer  
24 without driving the ferry. The cost sounds very  
25 good, and I strongly support the passenger-only ferry

0498

1 system. Any questions?

2 JUDGE RENDAHL: No, thank you very much.

3 Jim Martin.

4 MR. MARTIN: I'm Jim Martin, M-a-r-t-i-n.

5 Chair Showalter and Honorable Commissioners, I'm with  
6 the Greater Poulsbo Chamber of Commerce.

7 JUDGE RENDAHL: I'm sorry, can you state  
8 your address, too?

9 MR. MARTIN: I'm sorry, my personal address  
10 is 1668 Northeast Jacobson Road West, in Poulsbo.

11 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you.

12 MR. MARTIN: And I'm here both on -- in the  
13 capacity of the chamber of commerce, as well as  
14 myself as an individual. I would endorse the things  
15 that were previously said. I would just say please  
16 add us to the list in favor of Aqua Express here in  
17 Kingston.

18 I think the Kingston area is well prepared  
19 for it. We have ample parking, it's a positive  
20 positioning for the business and community. I  
21 believe it certainly will increase our tourism here,  
22 as well as business, and lower cost, more effective  
23 commuting and more enjoyment of travel by our water  
24 highways.

25 Overall, I feel that the support is here and

0499

1 I hope that it will move forward. The Kingston area  
2 is important to North Kitsap, and it's important to  
3 our economic development and the growth and certainly  
4 a very important part of the chamber, the Greater  
5 Poulsbo Chamber of Commerce, as well as the local  
6 chamber.

7 And again, somewhat echoing others, with the  
8 increased cost associated with the commuting and  
9 travel, I think we're all looking forward to an  
10 alternative and additional means of transporting for  
11 work, play, or tourism. I feel it also helps us as  
12 far as the traffic congestion on the paved highways.  
13 And that's all I have. I'll be glad to answer any  
14 questions.

15 JUDGE RENDAHL: Are there any questions?  
16 Thank you very much.

17 MR. MARTIN: Thank you.

18 JUDGE RENDAHL: I'm going to mispronounce  
19 this. Al Rand? Alexander? R. Alexander.

20 MR. ALEXANDER: That's me. I was going to  
21 wait till 6:00. I don't have too much, but while I'm  
22 here, just a few questions.

23 JUDGE RENDAHL: Can you first state your  
24 name?

25 MR. ALEXANDER: Russ Alexander.

0500

1 JUDGE RENDAHL: And your address?

2 MR. ALEXANDER: 17278 Lamolo Shore Drive.

3 JUDGE RENDAHL: I'm sorry?

4 MR. ALEXANDER: 17278 Lamolo Shore Drive.

5 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay.

6 MR. ALEXANDER: Poulsbo.

7 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you.

8 MR. ALEXANDER: Washington.

9 JUDGE RENDAHL: And are you here as an  
10 individual or --

11 MR. ALEXANDER: As an individual.

12 JUDGE RENDAHL: Please go ahead.

13 MR. ALEXANDER: And as a some 30-year  
14 commuter, my concerns are basically, number one, is  
15 the -- this is referred to as a public-private  
16 association. What is the financial arrangement with  
17 Kitsap Transit, as this would -- previously stated or  
18 made the observation the 695 failed. Also, there was  
19 an initiative here locally that failed regarding  
20 subsidizing a private transit, private foot ferry,  
21 and all of a sudden here we have it. Is this solely  
22 a private operation or is it -- where is the public  
23 financing entering into it through via Kitsap  
24 Transit?

25 My other basic observation would be is that,

0501

1 with the scheduling, it's not going to run all day  
2 long, which I can understand why there's no midday  
3 traffic, but with the scheduling, it's definitely  
4 going to have this boat and I'll have to combine it,  
5 I guess, with the Bremerton concept, an impact on the  
6 State ferry system, because it's going to pick the  
7 cherries out of the pie right there at the peak  
8 traveling period.

9           So if the State and the Department of  
10 Transportation, you folks, have limited the budget of  
11 the State system and so-called want 80 percent of the  
12 fare box to pay for the State operation, it's going  
13 to definitely diminish that 80 percent. So being  
14 long of tooth and have witnessed Blackball's  
15 operation in Seattle when they went out, and also  
16 Kitsap Transit and Metro and a few others, it seems  
17 that Kitsap Transit and all these other operations,  
18 State operations, are the product of a failed private  
19 operation, and I'm fearful that we'll go down the  
20 same road. So that's basically it.

21           JUDGE RENDAHL: Are there any questions?  
22 Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Alexander. David  
23 Schwab.

24           MR. SCHWAB: You have my written testimony.

25           JUDGE RENDAHL: Oh, is this the envelope

0502

1 here?

2 MR. SCHWAB: Yes.

3 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay. So you don't wish to  
4 speak?

5 MR. SCHWAB: Correct.

6 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you. Dave  
7 Marlowe.

8 MR. MARLOWE: Yes, but before I get up, I  
9 would like to know what he is saying so I can know if  
10 he's for or against.

11 JUDGE RENDAHL: You need to be speaking into  
12 a microphone when you're talking. Do you want to  
13 speak?

14 MR. MARLOWE: Well, I was going to say that  
15 I agreed with Ms. Wood, but what else do I need to  
16 say?

17 JUDGE RENDAHL: Why don't you come up and  
18 state that, and then you can sit down.

19 MR. MARLOWE: Okay.

20 JUDGE RENDAHL: If you could identify  
21 yourselves for the record and state your address?

22 MR. MARLOWE: Hi, I'm Dave Marlowe, and I  
23 live 28320 Parcell Road, Kingston. I'm here for  
24 myself.

25 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay.



0503

1 MS. MARLOWE: And I'm Katherine Marlowe, and  
2 I live at 28320 Parcell Road in Kingston.

3 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you.

4 MR. MARLOWE: We're both here in support of  
5 this ferry, and we think it's long past due. And  
6 what I was trying to say, I guess, for the record, is  
7 I'm curious of what he submitted as a written  
8 statement for or against, so we as a group will know  
9 what is being said.

10 JUDGE RENDAHL: I can let you know that the  
11 Commission will accept written comments on this  
12 proceeding and they become what's called an  
13 illustrative exhibit. And they will be posted on the  
14 Commission's Web site. I just received this today

15 MR. MARLOWE: Okay. That's fine.

16 JUDGE RENDAHL: It will be filed with the  
17 Commission in the record and made available on the  
18 Web site, so everyone will be able to see it. And  
19 similar to other comments the Commission has  
20 received, it's similar to what you all have stated  
21 today, just on paper, so -- I haven't read it yet, I  
22 don't know what's in here, but it will be filed with  
23 the Commission and made available.

24 MR. MARLOWE: Fine. I just wanted to say  
25 that I concur and I agree with what was said by Mrs.

0504

1 Wood.

2 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you very much.

3 MS. MARLOWE: I'm a little wordier.

4 JUDGE RENDAHL: Well, why don't we retake  
5 you, Ms. Marlowe. We usually do one at a time. So  
6 if you could restate your name, you don't have to  
7 state your address, and then make your comments.

8 MS. MARLOWE: My name is Katherine Marlowe.  
9 First of all, what I'd like to say is that we are one  
10 of the couples that actually wrote to the Washington  
11 State Ferry System back in 2000, and they identified  
12 -- or actually, it was like 1999, and they identified  
13 to us that they would have a ferry system in place by  
14 2000, a second ferry by 2001.

15 So we purchased a house, or we moved back to  
16 Kingston with that in mind and had a job. Both of us  
17 were engineers in downtown Seattle, which caused us  
18 to have to commute, a four-hour round trip. I had to  
19 do it for one whole year before I finally quit  
20 because of the amount of time and effort that it took  
21 to be there.

22 The other thing I would like to also state  
23 is that one of the things that hasn't been commented  
24 on is that we, as a community, depend on -- as an  
25 older community, anyway, depend on specialists in

0505

1 downtown Seattle for all of our medical needs. I  
2 mean, we do have specialists here in Kitsap County,  
3 but a great deal of us go to downtown Seattle to the  
4 different hospitals for our needs, and it is a great  
5 burden to go that distance. Like I said, it's a  
6 four-hour commute in order to get to a physician.

7 This foot ferry is going to provide us with  
8 the ability to actually do that, along with visiting  
9 family and friends. So that's all I had to say.  
10 We're definitely in support of it.

11 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you very much,  
12 Ms. Marlowe. And I believe that is -- those are all  
13 the folks who have signed up. Is there anyone else  
14 in the audience who has not signed in or --

15 MR. AGNEW: I thought I signed in, but  
16 perhaps not. My name is Bruce Agnew, A-g-n-e-w. I'm  
17 the Director of Cascadia Center, Discovery Institute.  
18 And we serve as a staff for the Puget Sound Passenger  
19 Ferry Coalition, which is a year-old organization  
20 made up of public officials, maritime industry,  
21 including many of the members involved here today, as  
22 well as maritime labor.

23 We are here to support the Kingston to  
24 Seattle application. It's been a bit awkward for us,  
25 because maritime labor is split on this and there has

0506

1 been some concern about taking business away from the  
2 Washington State Ferry System. The exact language in  
3 our mission statement says that we support  
4 appropriate public-private partnerships, and I feel,  
5 with the withdrawal of the IBU opposition, that the  
6 Kingston-Seattle service is a very appropriate  
7 public-private partnership, and I applaud and our  
8 organization applauds the leadership of the Kitsap  
9 officials and the private operators in putting  
10 together an excellent joint development agreement.

11 I guess we have two points, from a regional  
12 perspective. First of all, the Kingston-Seattle  
13 ferry route, which has been -- passenger ferry route,  
14 direct route, has been talked about for many years,  
15 we've heard the history here today. It's an  
16 important congestion reliever. Not only does it  
17 provide direct access from North Kitsap to Seattle,  
18 medical facilities, jobs, et cetera, it's also an  
19 important throughway for Jefferson and Clallam  
20 County, which are growing very, very fast.

21 The Washington State Department of  
22 Transportation has no immediate plans to improve  
23 Interstate 5 from Edmonds down through Seattle, which  
24 carries 250,000 cars a day -- cars and trucks and  
25 others vehicles. This direct route is very important

0507

1 to relieve that congestion choke point.

2           Sound Transit, as you probably know, is  
3 engaged in expanding commuter rail from Everett to  
4 Seattle, and currently they only have one train, the  
5 Sounder, that stops in Edmonds that can connect with  
6 this. The plans are to go to four trains, but  
7 probably not until about three or four years. So the  
8 immediate beginning of passenger ferry service is  
9 very key to relieve that congestion point.

10           My second point is that this joint  
11 development agreement with Kitsap Transit involving  
12 public support, infrastructure investments at the  
13 Port, transit connections, and the expertise of these  
14 private operators will serve as a template for the  
15 rest of Puget Sound, which has very much of a strong  
16 interest in looking at appropriate public-private  
17 ferry systems. For instance, we are looking at  
18 Bellingham-San Juan Islands direct route.  
19 Everett-Coupeville-Oak Harbor, that's subject to a  
20 federal transit grant that we have. And in South  
21 Sound, there is considerable interest for Gig  
22 Harbor-Tacoma connections. So if you approve this,  
23 it could serve as a case study for successful  
24 partnerships in the future. We appreciate that.

25           JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you, Mr. Agnew.

0508

1 Before you leave, could you state your address?

2 MR. AGNEW: I'm sorry, I'm not a local  
3 resident. 3415 97th Southeast, on Mercer Island,  
4 Washington.

5 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you. Are there any  
6 questions? Thank you very much. Is there anyone  
7 else who I didn't quite catch? Okay. Please come  
8 forward.

9 MS. ENDRESEN: I wasn't sworn in, because I  
10 was going to testify at the 6:00 p.m. I wanted to  
11 make sure everyone here had time. I'm Kitsap County  
12 Commissioner Chris Endresen. I represent the north  
13 end of the county. I also serve on the board of  
14 Kitsap Transit.

15 JUDGE RENDAHL: Can you spell your last  
16 name, please?

17 MS. ENDRESEN: E-n-d-r-e-s-e-n.

18 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you. And could you  
19 state your address for the record, please?

20 MS. ENDRESEN: 692 Northeast Shorewood  
21 Court, Poulsbo, Washington, 98370.

22 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you. Could you raise  
23 your right hand, please?

24 Whereupon,

25 CHRIS ENDRESEN,

0509

1 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
2 herein and testified as follows:

3 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you. Please go ahead.

4 MS. ENDRESEN: Thank you. Good afternoon,  
5 Commissioners. Thank you very much for having this  
6 meeting in Kitsap County. I have served as the  
7 commissioner for the north end of the county for  
8 eight years, and each of those years have worked  
9 tirelessly to bring passenger ferry service from  
10 Kingston to Seattle.

11 Our community has sponsored demonstration  
12 runs, we have lobbied in Olympia, had rallies in  
13 Olympia, and have been successful in convincing the  
14 legislature for the need for this service more than  
15 once. The legislature committed to passenger-only  
16 ferry service operated by the Washington State  
17 Ferries. This service was funded until Initiative  
18 695 passed and the finance vehicle was eliminated.

19 We were successful with the legislature  
20 again, a second time, and they included  
21 passenger-only ferry service in Referendum 51. The  
22 voters decided against that transportation package  
23 and we were again without service.

24 For the third time, the community convinced  
25 the legislature that passenger-only ferry service was

0510

1 a needed service and they crafted legislation that  
2 would allow Kitsap Transit to operate that service.

3 JUDGE RENDAHL: Ms. Endresen, can you -- if  
4 you're reading, can you slow down a bit for the court  
5 reporter?

6 MS. ENDRESEN: Yes.

7 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay, thank you.

8 MS. ENDRESEN: Kitsap Transit operations  
9 depended on a proposition to raise the sales tax in  
10 Kitsap County, but many of our voters felt that the  
11 cost of this service should not be borne solely by  
12 the taxpayers of the county, and the ballot issue  
13 failed.

14 The service is still needed, and I ask you  
15 to grant the franchise with Aqua Express for this  
16 important service. Having this direct service from  
17 Kingston to Seattle will have a positive effect  
18 throughout our county. It will reduce traffic on  
19 Highway 305 by reducing the number of people who  
20 currently commute to Bainbridge Island to catch the  
21 ferry to Seattle. It will relieve parking on  
22 Bainbridge Island. It will enhance the quality of  
23 life for our commuting residents by reducing their  
24 travel time and giving them direct access to Seattle.  
25 The service will complement existing car boat



0511

1 schedules and, combined with the Bremerton service,  
2 will help reduce traffic congestion through Poulsbo.

3           The last point I would like to make is about  
4 the broader implications of this service. Puget  
5 Sound Passenger Ferry Coalition is a group of elected  
6 officials, union officials, private sector business,  
7 who work together with the Cascadia Project of the  
8 Discovery Institute. Our work includes encouraging  
9 passenger ferry service throughout Puget Sound as an  
10 integral part of a multi-modal system to encourage  
11 economic development, expand jobs in the maritime  
12 industry, and to support federal initiatives to  
13 enhance the role of ferries in our transportation  
14 system.

15           I strongly urge you to approve this  
16 franchise. It means a lot to the residents of Kitsap  
17 County. Thank you for being here today.

18           JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you.

19           MS. ENDRESEN: Do you have any questions?

20           JUDGE RENDAHL: I don't think so. Thank you  
21 very much. Oh, and would you like this to be made a  
22 part of the illustrative record?

23           MS. ENDRESEN: Yes, thank you.

24           JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you. There was one  
25 more hand up. Why don't you please come forward,

0512

1 sir. And were you here when we were swearing  
2 everyone in?

3 MR. WAID: No, I was not. I came in late.

4 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay. Why don't you state  
5 your name and address first.

6 MR. WAID: My name is Roger Waid. I reside  
7 at 8809 State Highway 104 Northeast, Kingston.

8 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you. And are you here  
9 appearing as an individual or representing an  
10 organization?

11 MR. WAID: As an individual.

12 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you. Would you please  
13 raise your right hand?

14 Whereupon,

15 ROGER WAID,  
16 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
17 herein and testified as follows:

18 JUDGE RENDAHL: Please go ahead.

19 MR. WAID: I am fully supportive of this  
20 ferry proposition, want to see it succeed. I reside  
21 in one of those locations with a direct access onto  
22 the highway and know what the problems are on the  
23 Highway 104 when car ferry traffic is backing up  
24 across our driveways. And we know that the  
25 partnership with Kitsap Transit will allow the

0513

1 transit system to provide more and more frequent bus  
2 service to the ferry terminal, and we believe that it  
3 will reduce congestion on Highway 104 by having  
4 pedestrian-only ferry service. Thank you very much.

5 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you. And I see one  
6 more hand.

7 MR. AIDAME: My name is Samad Aidame,  
8 S-a-m-a-d, last name A-i-d-a-m-e, and my address is  
9 2916 Northwest Bucklin Hill Road, in Silverdale. I  
10 just wanted to let you know that I'm support --

11 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay. Before you go ahead  
12 and speak, I'll need to swear you in, unless you --

13 MR. AIDAME: I did.

14 JUDGE RENDAHL: You were a part of the  
15 group. Okay. Please go ahead.

16 MR. AIDAME: I'm in support for this -- for  
17 the direct ferry from Kingston to Seattle. My family  
18 lives in Silverdale, but my wife and I are looking to  
19 buy a house in the area, and the Kingston ferry  
20 direct to Seattle would be a very important factor in  
21 our decision-making. I have a job that I want to  
22 start, or that I'm going to start in August in  
23 downtown Seattle, and based on the fact that we can't  
24 afford to live in Bainbridge to commute easily and be  
25 near our family, the next option is to live farther

0514

1 from the ferry, which will probably cost me about two  
2 hours each way to get to work.

3 With this ferry, we feel that we can  
4 probably get closer to the ferry and that will  
5 probably reduce the commute time to an hour, which  
6 would be an additional two hours spending with my  
7 family, as opposed to being on the road.

8 And for the people who are opposing it for  
9 either the attempts in the past that have failed or  
10 for environmental issues or union issues, all I have  
11 to say is please consider also the actual needs of  
12 individual people, working people that have to  
13 commute long hours to get to their work and the  
14 quality of life that that will -- the increasing  
15 quality of life that this will have once this ferry  
16 is going to be direct link to Seattle and allow us to  
17 get good jobs and spend time with our families.  
18 Thank you.

19 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you. Okay. Is there  
20 any other person? We need to now move on to the  
21 other portion of our evidentiary hearing, but is  
22 there anyone else who wishes to speak this afternoon  
23 before we conclude the public comment period this  
24 afternoon? Well, thank you all very much for coming.  
25 And you're welcome to stay and hear what we do now.

0515

1           What we're going to do is take witnesses  
2 from the Applicant who are testifying a bit as to  
3 what you have testified to, which is the need for the  
4 service, but they will be testifying a bit more in  
5 detail through questions by the Applicant's attorney,  
6 Mr. Wiley. So you're welcome to sit and listen to  
7 that. We will be going through those witnesses this  
8 afternoon, taking a break for dinner, and then coming  
9 back at 6:00 for additional public comment. So  
10 that's our schedule.

11           So we'll be off the record while we  
12 transition to the next part. We'll take a 10-minute  
13 break and then we'll come back. Thank you very much.  
14 We'll be off the record.

15           (Afternoon public hearing concluded at 2:08  
16 p.m., whereupon the evidentiary hearing  
17 resumed.)

18           (Evening public hearing began at 6:11 p.m.)

19           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Let's be on the  
20 record. Good evening. This is a public hearing of  
21 the Washington Utilities and Transportation  
22 Commission. We're on the matter of Aqua Express  
23 Passenger-only Ferry Application between Kingston and  
24 Seattle, Docket Number TS-040650.

25           I'm Marilyn Showalter. I'm the Chair of the

0516

1 Commission, and with me are my colleagues,  
2 Commissioner Dick Hemstad and Commissioner Pat Oshie,  
3 and the three of us comprise the Commission.

4 This hearing is the opportunity for citizens  
5 to give testimony on their views of this application.  
6 It's a little different than a typical city council  
7 meeting that you might be familiar with. This is a  
8 quasi-judicial proceeding, and so the three  
9 Commissioners sit as judges. And you may see here  
10 that a court reporter is taking down every word.

11 There has already been a formal part of the  
12 hearing, in which the parties in the proceeding put  
13 on testimony and gave evidence. The primary party in  
14 the hearing is Aqua Express, and Aqua Express is  
15 represented here by David Wiley, an attorney at the  
16 table here. Another party was or is Kitsap  
17 Transportation Benefit Area, and their attorney is  
18 not present tonight. Another party is the Staff of  
19 the Commission, represented by Don Trotter. Also,  
20 originally this application was protested, that is,  
21 contested by the Inlandboatmen's Union, but yesterday  
22 the Union withdrew its protest, so at this point,  
23 this is not a contested proceeding. There is no  
24 formal opponent.

25 However, the views of you and other citizens

0517

1 may vary on this, and we welcome all of your views.  
2 It's important, when you testify, to stay focused on  
3 the question in front of us, which is should we grant  
4 Aqua Express the application for this passenger-only  
5 ferry between Kingston and Seattle. So please try to  
6 keep your comments focused on what you see as the  
7 need or not a need for this service, and what it  
8 means to you.

9           There are a number of people in the  
10 audience, as you can see. I would ask you to try to  
11 keep your comments to about three minutes. That  
12 sounds like a short period of time, but, honestly,  
13 there's quite a bit that you can say in three  
14 minutes. If someone else has already made the points  
15 that you would like to make and you simply want to  
16 echo them or say you agree with one of the witnesses,  
17 that is fine. It's as if you said those words  
18 yourself.

19           Also, it is very important to remain silent  
20 while other people testify. That means no clapping,  
21 no booing, no side conversations, and no remarks,  
22 positive or negative. If you do need to have a  
23 conversation, please go outside. It is distracting  
24 to us and discourteous to the witness to have  
25 conversations in the room. Also, it's important for

0518

1 the court reporter to take down everything that  
2 happens in the room, and so we want her to be focused  
3 on the witness. As a final thing, I will ask  
4 everyone to please turn off your cell phones.

5 What I'm going to do now is ask anyone who  
6 plans to testify to please stand -- there's  
7 somebody's cell phone that needs to be turned off --  
8 and raise your right hand.

9 Whereupon,

10 ALL POTENTIAL PUBLIC SPEAKERS,  
11 having been first duly sworn, were called as  
12 witnesses herein and testified as follows:

13 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Well, I see that  
14 there are fewer people -- fewer people signed up as  
15 witnesses than people who have come to listen, and  
16 that's fine, too. Are we ready to proceed? I will  
17 call, then, on Patty Halfhill.

18 MS. HALFHILL: Halfhill.

19 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Hatfield?

20 MS. HALFHILL: Halfhill.

21 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Halfhill, thank you.  
22 Now, would you please state your name and spell your  
23 last name?

24 MS. HALFHILL: Patty Halfhill,  
25 H-a-l-f-h-i-l-l.



0519

1 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And where do you  
2 live?

3 MS. HALFHILL: Jefferson Beach in Kingston.

4 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And what is your  
5 address?

6 MS. HALFHILL: 21291 Howard Avenue  
7 Northeast.

8 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Are you testifying  
9 today in your individual capacity --

10 MS. HALFHILL: Yes.

11 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: -- or do you  
12 represent a group?

13 MS. HALFHILL: Myself.

14 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: All right. And  
15 here's another tip. Please try to wait until I have  
16 finished speaking or anyone who asks you a question,  
17 and not to overlap, and I'll try to do the same. The  
18 reason is the court reporter can't take down two  
19 conversations at once.

20 Also, I would ask if, if your children do  
21 start to make noise, please take them off for a  
22 little bit before bringing them back. Thanks.

23 Go ahead. Give your testimony. You can  
24 regard it as a general question to you of what is  
25 your position on this application and why?

0520

1           MS. HALFHILL: Okay. I'd like to make two  
2 points. The first is, when we moved here about three  
3 years ago, I went in to pay property taxes, and I was  
4 told that Kingston, the Kingston area, anyway, paid  
5 some of the highest taxes for property taxes in  
6 Kitsap County in anticipation of having a foot ferry  
7 someday.

8           We just got our assessment for next year and  
9 property values have gone up about \$14,000 again,  
10 anticipating a foot ferry. And now that we're  
11 getting closer to actually having one, I think that  
12 influenced a lot of that increase. If I'm going to  
13 pay the extra taxes, then I'd like something to show  
14 for it, and this service not only benefits the people  
15 that commute day-to-day, but also commutes, those  
16 like myself, that go over occasionally, just as one  
17 more way of getting across the water.

18           The second point I'd like to make is, this  
19 day and age, when states and counties and even  
20 federal funds are being harder to come by,  
21 improvements to transportation needs have been voted  
22 down and we've seen serious cutbacks in several  
23 areas. Privatization of a service seems to make  
24 sense. We're already testing and bidding on planes  
25 that will handle space travel, and there has been

0521

1 talk for years of privatizing Amtrak because funding  
2 is not as generous or as forthcoming as maybe it  
3 should be.

4           If the Washington State Ferry System can't  
5 get funding, as they've tried to do, because of  
6 whatever Tim Eyman and his people that agree with his  
7 form of keeping taxes down, then having a private  
8 company take over the service makes sense. If it's a  
9 good company providing a good service, the public  
10 will support it. If they run it badly, it will go  
11 out of business just like any other business that's  
12 privately-owned. So it has my heartfelt support and  
13 I hope it will be considered. Thank you.

14           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. And thank  
15 you for speaking slowly. I would ask, if you are not  
16 -- please either be seated in the room or leave. It  
17 is distracting for us to have people standing.  
18 Thanks. You're very welcome to sit down in the  
19 meantime. John Ross.

20           MR. ROSS: Good evening.

21           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Would you give us  
22 your name and spell your last?

23           MR. ROSS: John Ross, and my last name's  
24 spelled R-o-s-s.

25           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And what is your

0522

1 address?

2 MR. ROSS: My address is 39739 Bay Street,  
3 Northeast, in Hansville.

4 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And what is your  
5 position on the application and why?

6 MR. ROSS: You asked the other young lady --  
7 I have a statement from the Inlandboatmen's Union  
8 President, which I'll read second, and I am also a  
9 community member and a union member.

10 My personal oppositions are I believe this  
11 service is going to take away from Washington State  
12 Ferries' ridership out of Edmonds and also out of  
13 Seattle to Bainbridge Island. I feel there isn't  
14 sufficient parking in Kingston to handle the  
15 additional 500, 600 cars in the Kingston downtown  
16 area for this service. And I also believe that, even  
17 though the union dropped its protest yesterday,  
18 today, and it was in the paper, our Union is still  
19 opposed to the service for many reasons.

20 The letter I'll read is from David Freiboth,  
21 the president of the Inlandboatmen's Union of the  
22 Pacific, the marine division of the ILWU.

23 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: If you're reading, be  
24 sure to read slowly.

25 MR. ROSS: The IBU's objections are based on

0523

1 the concern that the proposed Kingston-Seattle  
2 passenger-only service would adversely affect WSF.  
3 Ferry management testified before the Transportation  
4 Commission that they had not analyzed the effect of  
5 the proposed service and its effects on WSF  
6 operations.

7 The IBU is also concerned that the proposed  
8 service is a piecemeal approach to regional  
9 transportation needs that lacks centralized planning.  
10 A comprehensive program that provides service that is  
11 affordable and accessible clearly would be in the  
12 traveling public's best interest and, in fact, is  
13 being studied by the Department of Transportation.

14 The IBU has joined with user groups and  
15 other interested parties in our support for a  
16 comprehensive passenger-only service. We remain  
17 ready to assist in a program that truly provides for  
18 all of our needs. David Freiboth, President, IBU.

19 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: What is the date of  
20 that letter?

21 MR. ROSS: The date is yesterday. Sorry,  
22 June 30th, 2004.

23 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Any questions?

24 MR. WILEY: No questions.

25 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you.

0524

1 MR. ROSS: Thank you.

2 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Grant Griffin.

3 Please state your name and spell your last.

4 MR. GRIFFIN: My name is Grant Griffin,

5 G-r-i-f-f-i-n.

6 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And what is your

7 address?

8 MR. GRIFFIN: Address is 7326 N.E. Pebble

9 Beach Drive, Suquamish, Washington.

10 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. And what

11 is your position on the application and why?

12 MR. GRIFFIN: In favor of granting the

13 application. And I have a letter that I would like

14 to read into the record from the Marine

15 Transportation Association of Kitsap in favor of

16 granting the application, and I would like to read

17 that now.

18 Dear Commissioners, the Marine

19 Transportation Association of Kitsap, MTAK, urges the

20 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to

21 approve application B-07273 from Aqua Express without

22 delay. MTAK has committed to rider-oriented

23 passenger-only service between Kitsap County and

24 other ports on the Puget Sound. As a strong

25 supporter of the voter measure last fall to create a

0525

1 comprehensive passenger ferry service originating in  
2 Kitsap County, MTAK recognizes that Kitsap residents  
3 rejected the property and motor vehicle excise tax  
4 funding proposal, but not the need for passenger  
5 ferry service.

6 County residents believe that passenger  
7 ferry service from Kingston is imperative for future  
8 economic development in North Kitsap County, and that  
9 private operators are key to development of this  
10 service. MTAK is pleased that private operators have  
11 stepped into the -- stepped in to provide passenger  
12 ferry service from Kingston to Seattle. The joint  
13 development agreement that Aqua Express has entered  
14 into with Kitsap Transit will ensure that this  
15 service is integrated with short ride transportation  
16 systems that is responsive to county residents'  
17 needs.

18 In addition to providing service on a highly  
19 desired new route directly into downtown Seattle from  
20 Kingston, MTAK believes that the proposed passenger  
21 ferry service between Kingston and Seattle will  
22 improve the quality of life locally. It will  
23 alleviate overcrowding on major arterials, such as  
24 State Route 305, and allow other communities, such as  
25 Bainbridge Island and Poulsbo, to effectively manage

0526

1 economic development.

2 Please grant Application B-079273 from Aqua  
3 Express and preserve transportation choices for North  
4 Kitsap residents. Sincerely, Grant Griffin, Vice  
5 President, Marine Transportation Association, Kitsap.

6 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Can you  
7 tell me a little bit more about what MTAK is?

8 MR. GRIFFIN: MTAK was formed as a support  
9 organization primarily for the -- the initiative to  
10 provide passenger-only ferry service in Kitsap by  
11 taxing the residents, which was defeated.

12 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And who are its  
13 members?

14 MR. GRIFFIN: Its members vary. I can read  
15 the list to you if you'd like and I can kind of give  
16 an overview. We have people from the Port of  
17 Bremerton, we have people from private industry, we  
18 have people from school districts, we have people  
19 from tourism groups. It's made up of a considerable  
20 number of individual and corporate people.

21 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Are they identified  
22 on the letterhead?

23 MR. GRIFFIN: They are.

24 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Would you like to  
25 submit that letter --



0527

1 MR. GRIFFIN: I would very much.

2 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: -- as part of our  
3 record?

4 MR. GRIFFIN: Yes.

5 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: You can hand it up to  
6 me, then. Thank you.

7 MR. GRIFFIN: Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Are there any other  
9 questions?

10 MR. WILEY: None, Your Honor.

11 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you very much.  
12 Now, we have two people signed in, but Marcia Kelbon  
13 testified earlier this afternoon, and Dave Atkinson  
14 also testified earlier this afternoon. And I'll call  
15 on Tim Caldwell. Can you tell us your name and spell  
16 your last?

17 MR. CALDWELL: Tim Caldwell,  
18 C-a-l-d-w-e-l-l.

19 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And what is your  
20 address?

21 MR. CALDWELL: 2437 East Sims Way.

22 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And are you speaking  
23 in your individual capacity or as a representative of  
24 an organization?

25 MR. CALDWELL: I'm representative of an

0528

1 organization.

2 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And that is?

3 MR. CALDWELL: Port Townsend Chamber of  
4 Commerce.

5 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: What is your role in  
6 the Chamber of Commerce?

7 MR. CALDWELL: I'm the general manager.

8 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Tell us your position  
9 on the application and why?

10 MR. CALDWELL: The Port Townsend Chamber of  
11 Commerce's position is it wholeheartedly endorses the  
12 granting of the license. The Chamber has worked with  
13 Aqua -- actually, Clipper Navigation previously on  
14 excursion runs from Seattle to Port Townsend. We  
15 basically took the lead from Kitsap Chamber -- excuse  
16 me, from Kingston Chamber did it previously, again to  
17 demonstrate the feasibility of this route, and we had  
18 very successful runs. The limiting factor was the  
19 boats weren't available during high season. They had  
20 already had other commitments.

21 We see this route, particularly since it is  
22 is being established as a commuter route with excess  
23 capacity on the weekends, and not only Port Townsend,  
24 but the other communities in East Jefferson County,  
25 Port Hadlock and Port Ludlow, are ready and willing

0529

1 to take advantage of that capacity and excursions on  
2 the weekends. And we see that as, particularly for  
3 the tourism industry in East Jefferson County, as a  
4 real opportunity and would like to take advantage of  
5 that.

6 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Any questions for  
7 this witness? Thank you very much. There are two  
8 people signed up as maybes. So maybe they are  
9 emboldened to -- I see one is Terry Roslington.

10 MR. ROSLINGTON: Yes.

11 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Come forward.

12 MR. ROSLINGTON: Sorry I'm informal. I  
13 didn't realize this was a bit more of a formal  
14 meeting.

15 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: That's all right.  
16 What is your name and spell your last?

17 MR. ROSLINGTON: Terry Roslington, and  
18 that's R-o-s-l-i-n-g-t-o-n.

19 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And your address is?

20 MR. ROSLINGTON: 26314 Washington Boulevard  
21 Northeast, in Kingston.

22 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And are you speaking  
23 in your individual capacity or as a representative of  
24 an organization?

25 MR. ROSLINGTON: My company, it's Talking

0530

1 Real Estate, and you can say it  
2 Talkingrealestate.com. When I first moved here, it  
3 was the big talk of the passenger-only ferry, and it  
4 influenced me so much that that's what made me want  
5 to be here. And I think what made me want to stand  
6 up, I heard this gentleman speaking about Washington  
7 State Ferry concerned that they were going to lose  
8 some money, ridership. Well, I think the people are  
9 going to come. There's going to be more people and  
10 more people are going to come and you're not going to  
11 stop people from coming to a beautiful place like  
12 Kitsap County. It's just not going to happen.

13           Kitsap County is such a beautiful place, and  
14 Washington State Ferry has had the opportunity to  
15 take this, and they've turned it down. And now we  
16 have a very professional company, which I fully  
17 support, and all the clients that I've spoken with,  
18 almost every single one of them have supported it,  
19 and the only reason I think there's less people here  
20 is because a lot of people don't understand what's  
21 going on. They just -- for one, they don't know that  
22 meetings like this are happening and how important  
23 they are.

24           I just want to stress so much that I fully  
25 support this and I really look forward to Aqua

0531

1 Express getting this.

2 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. I realize  
3 I should have asked you at the outset, did you take  
4 the oath at the beginning?

5 MR. ROSLINGTON: No, I didn't, but --

6 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: All right. Raise  
7 your right hand.

8 Whereupon,

9 TERRY ROSLINGTON,  
10 having testified previously, was duly sworn by  
11 Chairwoman Showalter.

12 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Okay.

13 MR. ROSLINGTON: And please check out my Web  
14 site, Talkingrealestate.com.

15 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Next, two people have  
16 signed up, but we have only one witness come forward  
17 at a time, so Charles and Linda Thrasher signed up as  
18 maybes. Does either of you wish to testify?

19 MR. THRASHER: I'll speak, since my wife  
20 volunteered me.

21 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: You could each speak,  
22 but only in serial form.

23 MR. THRASHER: And I will need to be sworn  
24 in, since I --

25 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Okay, all right.

0532

1 Raise your right hand.

2 Whereupon,

3 CHARLES THRASHER,

4 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness

5 herein and testified as follows:

6 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: All right. What is

7 your name?

8 MR. THRASHER: Charles Thrasher,

9 T-h-r-a-s-h-e-r.

10 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And your address?

11 MR. THRASHER: 10649 Kingston Meadows

12 Circle.

13 MRS. THRASHER: 10679.

14 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Excuse me, please

15 remain silent. If you need to talk, leave the room.

16 Are you testifying in your individual capacity or in

17 an organizational or business capacity?

18 MR. THRASHER: As an individual.

19 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: You know the

20 question. What is your position on this application

21 and why?

22 MR. THRASHER: I'm for the application. And

23 primarily, it seems that, with the underfunding of

24 the State Ferries, which were critical for

25 transportation in this area, there is sort of a

0533

1 fragmentation I see happening in the area, where the  
2 two sides of the Sound are becoming isolated. I'm  
3 concerned, if that continues to develop, if the  
4 Washington State Ferries continue to cut back on  
5 their services, it will even further progress, which  
6 will threaten the entire livelihood of this side of  
7 the Sound.

8           We're already at a disadvantage as far as  
9 wages, but with further fragmentation, I'm afraid  
10 that's going to increase, which will definitely  
11 impact our quality of life. And I suppose in a way,  
12 too, the quality of life of the people on the other  
13 side of the Sound who use Kitsap as a recreational  
14 resource. That's primarily my interest.

15           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Any  
16 questions? No questions. Linda Thrasher, would you  
17 also like to testify? She indicates no. I believe  
18 that that is all who've signed up. Anyone else is  
19 welcome to come forward. Oh, we have another sign-up  
20 sheet. Catherine Thompson, I believe you have not  
21 been sworn in, is that --

22           MS. THOMPSON: That is correct.

23           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Okay. Raise your  
24 right hand.

25           Whereupon,

0534

1                           CATHERINE THOMPSON,  
2   having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
3   herein and testified as follows:

4                   CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER:   State your name.

5                   MS. THOMPSON:   My name is Catherine  
6   Thompson.

7                   CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER:   And where do you  
8   live?

9                   MS. THOMPSON:   I live at 21425 Miller Bay  
10   Road, Poulsbo.

11                  CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER:   You might need to  
12   bring that microphone down a bit.   Thank you.

13                  MS. THOMPSON:   Okay.

14                  CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER:   And are you here in  
15   your individual capacity or on behalf of a business  
16   or organization?

17                  MS. THOMPSON:   I'm here in my individual  
18   capacity.

19                  CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER:   And do you support  
20   this application?   If so, why?   If not, why not?

21                  MS. THOMPSON:   I support this application  
22   completely.   I believe that options in transportation  
23   are critical for us statewide, especially in Kitsap  
24   County, particularly for this Kingston run.   We are  
25   not having competition with the run that goes to



0535

1 Edmonds. This will go to Seattle. I ride the  
2 Edmonds ferry every day, by the way, and will  
3 continue to do that, because my work is in Edmonds.

4           However, I believe that Kitsap County  
5 residents will benefit greatly from having the  
6 opportunity to work other places, to go other places.  
7 We are so dependent on the ferry, and will continue  
8 to be so. We have automobile limitations here and  
9 cars will still need to get across and a lot of us  
10 foot -- walk on people, like myself, will need to get  
11 across.

12           The newspaper article that came out this  
13 morning regarding the decision on Bainbridge Island I  
14 believe was unfortunate in timing because so many  
15 folks -- and we heard conversations on the ferry,  
16 that sort of thing -- felt that then the decision had  
17 been made and that it wasn't important that they come  
18 to the meeting tonight, and so I think that perhaps  
19 attendance is, in part, reflective of that  
20 misimpression. You had to read clear through the  
21 article to see that the hearing was still happening  
22 here. Thank you.

23           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. And I  
24 think the witness is making reference to an article  
25 in the Bremerton Sun, where the headline did use the

0536

1 plural, ferries. The article was about a decision we  
2 made on a different case, that is, the  
3 Bremerton-Seattle passenger-only temporary permit.

4 Rex Lee Carlaw. Please state your name and  
5 spell your last?

6 MR. CARLAW: Rex Lee Carlaw, C-a-r-l-a-w.

7 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And where do you  
8 live?

9 MR. CARLAW: I live at 26325 Illinois  
10 Avenue, Northeast, Kingston, B-301.

11 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: I'm sorry, B-301?

12 MR. CARLAW: That's the condo unit on  
13 Illinois Avenue.

14 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: I see. In what city?

15 MR. CARLAW: Kingston.

16 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Are you here  
17 testifying in your individual capacity or on behalf  
18 of an organization or business?

19 MR. CARLAW: Speaking for the Kingston Ferry  
20 Advisory Committee.

21 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And what is your role

22 --

23 MR. CARLAW: And as an individual.

24 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: What is your role on  
25 the advisory committee?

0537

1 MR. CARLAW: I'm a member.

2 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Go ahead.

3 MR. CARLAW: My family first came to  
4 Kingston in 1930, and my aunt, who passed away in  
5 1999, spoke sometimes about her trip -- direct trips  
6 to Seattle on the Mosquito Fleet, purchases at Pike  
7 Place Market and the ease of transport between  
8 Kingston and Seattle in the thirties and early  
9 forties, and I believe that this is a restoration of  
10 direct service that predated even the Ferry Service,  
11 which connected Kingston to downtown Seattle.

12 For economic reasons, it was not feasible to  
13 continue for many years, but due to advances in  
14 technology and the growth in population in the area,  
15 I think it is fully feasible and certainly worth the  
16 permission to give to the company to attempt this  
17 service and to provide it. I believe it will be  
18 well-used.

19 In the past, I commuted to downtown Seattle  
20 from Kingston, and I know that this service would  
21 have saved a lot of morning and evening time  
22 commuting directly downtown, rather than driving to  
23 Bainbridge or taking a bus from Edmonds. I think  
24 there are many people that will take advantage of  
25 this service and it will give alternatives and it

0538

1 will be good for Kingston.

2 While I commute to Snohomish County at  
3 present, there will be times that my family and I  
4 will use this ferry in order to go to downtown  
5 Seattle for special events, particularly if some  
6 evening and weekend service for cultural events is  
7 added later. Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Any questions? No  
9 questions. Thank you very much.

10 MR. CARLAW: Do you need to --

11 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Oh, I apologize. I  
12 should have caught that. Raise your right hand.

13 Whereupon,

14 REX LEE CARLAW,  
15 having previously testified, was sworn by Chairwoman  
16 Showalter.

17 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Thank  
18 you. Would anyone else like to comment, whether  
19 you've signed up to do so or not? Come forward. And  
20 while he's coming forward, I will say we do have your  
21 names on the sign-up sheet, if you did sign, and it  
22 does show whether you do or don't support the  
23 application.

24 MR. SZERLOG: I came in late, so I'll have  
25 to --

0539

1                   CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you, and thank  
2 you for reminding me.

3 Whereupon,

4                   MICHAEL J. SZERLOG,  
5 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
6 herein and testified as follows:

7                   CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: What is your name?

8                   MR. SZERLOG: My name is Michael J. Szerlog,  
9 S-z-e-r-l-o-g. I live at 26221 Tuckerin Avenue,  
10 Northeast, in Kingston, and I've been a ferry  
11 commuter from the Edmonds run to -- or Kingston to  
12 Edmonds for about five years, I work in downtown  
13 Seattle. I commute via the Kitsap Transit van pool.  
14 The reason I chose to do that, it gave most  
15 flexibility for me to be with my family. I'm also a  
16 soccer coach. And I see the real reason for having  
17 this passenger-only service is to give the  
18 flexibility to the residents here at Kingston.

19                   Our family moved here back five years ago  
20 when there was a ferry that was going to be placed in  
21 Kingston. And we really love it here, we like the  
22 community, we like the opportunity that it gives us  
23 to get to Seattle. Right now, I have a couple  
24 choices as a commuter. I could commute via the  
25 Bainbridge Island run. That means either taking a

0540

1 bus or driving a car and trying to deal with  
2 Bainbridge Island traffic, right now, the traffic is  
3 very bad, or do this van pool commute, and it is  
4 restrictive. You have to be there at a certain time.

5 So I am fully supportive of this proposal  
6 here for Aqua Express to have a run to Seattle. It  
7 would definitely decrease my commuting time and allow  
8 me to fully enjoy the family life, as well as other  
9 things, such as coaching.

10 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: From your house to  
11 your office, what is your commuting time, on average?

12 MR. SZERLOG: It's anywhere from an hour and  
13 a half to an hour and 45 one way.

14 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And is it about the  
15 same on the return trip?

16 MR. SZERLOG: About the same.

17 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: If this application  
18 is granted and you take the foot ferry from Kingston  
19 to Seattle, what would be the total time for you from  
20 your house to the office?

21 MR. SZERLOG: If I were to take my bicycle,  
22 it would be probably about 45, 50 minutes.

23 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Okay. Thank you.  
24 Any questions? No questions.

25 MR. SZERLOG: Thank you.

0541

1                   CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. There was  
2 a gentlemen here. Eventually, I will get it right.  
3 We're actually supposed to take your name first  
4 before we swear you in.

5                   MR. KISER: Mike Kiser.

6                   CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: How do you spell your  
7 last name?

8                   MR. KISER: K-i-s-e-r.

9                   CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: What is your address?

10                  MR. KISER: 11775 Northeast Arlene Lane in  
11 Kingston.

12                  CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Would you raise your  
13 right hand?

14 Whereupon,

15   MIKE KISER,  
16 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
17 herein and testified as follows:

18                  CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Okay. Are you  
19 testifying in your individual capacity or as a  
20 representative of an organization or business?

21                  MR. KISER: As an individual, but I'm proud  
22 to come up and speak for the license. This  
23 community, several years ago, banded together and we  
24 rented a clipper, went to Olympia, got the support  
25 from our legislature to have a foot ferry, fast foot

0542

1 ferry built to run from Kingston to Seattle.  
2 Unfortunately, the initiatives of Tim Eyman nixed us  
3 at that time and we've been fighting to get it ever  
4 since.

5           But my testimony is more of a question to  
6 ask of the committee and perhaps the organization who  
7 will be running it, is many businesses and  
8 governments, federal and state, provide support to  
9 employees to utilize mass transit, and by doing so,  
10 they help assist in purchasing passes for buses, for  
11 the ferries, WSF. Private companies do it, federal  
12 government does it, state government does it from  
13 funds from the Department of Transportation.

14           And we -- my -- I have a question, although  
15 I'm here testifying in support of the program, is  
16 will the license provide a suggestion or a  
17 requirement to recognize previous commitments from  
18 the state or federal organizations that have  
19 supported funding or support the employee going to  
20 and from work by purchasing vouchers, if you will,  
21 for individuals to come and go to work, and will this  
22 license and will the company recognize those previous  
23 commitments made by those organizations. I just --  
24 in fact, I don't know who to ask that to.

25           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: I appreciate the



0543

1 question. The three of us Commissioners sit as  
2 impartial judges, and we're not here to answer  
3 questions.

4 MR. KISER: No, I didn't mean that.

5 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: However, after the  
6 hearing is over, it's entirely appropriate for you to  
7 consult with Mr. Wiley here or Mr. Trotter, or also  
8 Penny Hansen, who's in the back, can help you, and  
9 also a representative from the Kitsap Transportation  
10 Benefit Area is here. So what I would suggest is  
11 that, when the hearing is over, you approach one of  
12 them. They'll be hanging around to get your question  
13 answered.

14 MR. KISER: And I'm free to answer any  
15 questions if I've got any.

16 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Are there any  
17 questions for this witness?

18 MR. KISER: Thank you for asking.

19 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Would  
20 anyone else like to testify? Come on forward. And  
21 what is your name and spell your last?

22 MR. ANDERSON: Robert Anderson,  
23 A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.

24 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: What is your address?

25 MR. ANDERSON: 34712 Pilot Point Road,

0544

1 Kingston.

2 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Would you raise your  
3 right hand?

4 Whereupon,

5 ROBERT ANDERSON,  
6 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
7 herein and testified as follows:

8 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Are you here to  
9 testify in your individual capacity or as a  
10 representative of a business or organization?

11 MR. ANDERSON: As an individual.

12 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And go ahead.

13 MR. ANDERSON: I want to just express my  
14 enthusiastic support for the license. I work in  
15 downtown Seattle and commute via the Kitsap Transit  
16 from the park and ride down to Bainbridge Island and  
17 take the ferry across, and then I can walk from there  
18 to my office in downtown Seattle. I would very much  
19 appreciate the opportunity for an alternate mode of  
20 transportation that would lessen my commute and give  
21 me a little bit more time at home with my family.

22 I think we, in the Puget Sound area, have a  
23 unique opportunity, being able to take advantage of  
24 the water to facilitate mass transit, and I think  
25 it's a shame that we don't take that opportunity

0545

1 more, and this is one mechanism for being able to do  
2 that. I wish it could have happened through the  
3 Washington State Ferries, but funding was such that  
4 that wasn't able to happen. So I enthusiastically  
5 support this opportunity for the private industry to  
6 step forward and offer the service.

7 My hope is that the only drawback to the  
8 system will be that one boat isn't enough and we need  
9 to have more boats running back and forth and improve  
10 the schedule.

11 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: What is your total  
12 commute time from your house to your office  
13 presently?

14 MR. ANDERSON: A little bit less than two  
15 hours each way.

16 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And what would it be  
17 if you could use the foot ferry from Kingston to  
18 Seattle?

19 MR. ANDERSON: It would easily take off a  
20 half hour each way.

21 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Any other questions?

22 Thank you.

23 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: I saw a hand up over  
25 here. Why don't you come forward. What is your

0546

1 name, and spell your last?

2 MS. LEGGE: My name is Tecla Legge,  
3 L-e-g-g-e.

4 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And what is your  
5 address?

6 MS. LEGGE: It's 26378 Ohio Avenue,  
7 Kingston.

8 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Please raise your  
9 right hand.  
10 Whereupon,

11 TECLA LEGGE,  
12 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
13 herein and testified as follows:

14 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Please proceed.

15 MS. LEGGE: I actually have nothing new to  
16 say. I've heard it all from other people who are in  
17 the same situation. I'm a supporter of granting a  
18 license to Aqua Express. I've been commuting for  
19 seven and a half years to downtown Seattle, to south  
20 of downtown Seattle. In fact, I was in here late, so  
21 I don't know what else was said, because when we  
22 commute that way, we don't get home in time for a lot  
23 of meetings that start at 6:00 in the evening.

24 I have commuted both Bainbridge Island ferry  
25 and the Edmonds ferry, usually by bus and recently by

0547

1 train or bus via Edmonds. I've never taken a van  
2 pool. I've been tempted, but there's no versatility.  
3 You have one time you can get there in the morning  
4 and one time to get home, so that the versatility's  
5 gone with a van pool.

6 I am hoping that there is, as another person  
7 testifying mentioned, an underwriting that is  
8 available to public transit users. That is the one  
9 drawback that I see, that it could cost quite a bit  
10 more for people who do get an underwritten pass,  
11 transit pass, for their transportation costs at this  
12 point. I have an employer now that does give me a  
13 break on my transit pass.

14 My commute right now is at least -- or it's  
15 about two hours in the morning and two hours in the  
16 evening if I use the bus. You can speed it up a  
17 little if you put your foot on the pedal and drive  
18 fast.

19 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: What would it be if  
20 you could use the foot ferry?

21 MS. LEGGE: I think it would be, my  
22 calculation, one hour in the morning, one in the  
23 evening. That's my hope. Give me back two hours.

24 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you.

25 MS. LEGGE: Thank you.

0548

1                   CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Come forward. What  
2 is your name?

3                   MS. RUTLEDGE: My name is Donna Lee  
4 Rutledge. The last name is spelled R-u-t-l-e-d-g-e.

5                   CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And your address?

6                   MS. RUTLEDGE: My address is 3314 N.W. 75th  
7 Street, Seattle.

8                   CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Please raise your  
9 right hand.  
10 Whereupon,

11                                 DONNA LEE RUTLEDGE,  
12 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
13 herein and testified as follows:

14                   CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Go ahead.

15                   MS. RUTLEDGE: The reason I'm here tonight  
16 is I own five vacant lots in downtown Kingston, and  
17 my entire life career has been in engineering,  
18 architecture and construction. Land use is a passion  
19 of mine, and I view Kingston and this area  
20 essentially as the last frontier. And I was so  
21 pleased to see some of the land use planning and the  
22 high density in downtown.

23                   I want to support the foot ferry in every  
24 way possible to help improve the quality of life and  
25 to enable people that have homes in this environment

0549

1 to raise families and to be able to spend time with  
2 them. And with the foot ferry, that changes --  
3 greatly enhances the quality of life, and I wanted to  
4 be sure that I say that. Thank you.

5 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Any questions? Thank  
6 you. Would anyone else like to comment? Over here.  
7 What is your name?

8 MS. WOELKE: Jet Woelke, W-o-e-l-k-e.

9 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And what is your  
10 address?

11 MS. WOELKE: 34301 Bodine Road, Kingston,  
12 98346.

13 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Please raise your  
14 right hand.

15 Whereupon,

16 JET WOELKE,  
17 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
18 herein and testified as follows:

19 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And are you  
20 testifying in your individual capacity or on behalf  
21 of a business or organization?

22 MS. WOELKE: Individual.

23 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Go ahead.

24 MS. WOELKE: I heard a lot of commuters  
25 testify, and I just wanted to get up and say

0550

1 something. Although I agree with -- I'm for the  
2 license, and I wanted to say I'm not a commuter. I  
3 live and work in Kingston, but I would like to see a  
4 foot ferry go in. I would personally use it for my  
5 own entertainment and enjoyment, I think a lot of  
6 people in Kingston would. And also, on the other  
7 end, that I've heard a lot of people in the community  
8 really want the foot ferry.

9 I think it would help the business people  
10 downtown. I've seen a lot of people open up good  
11 businesses and they can't keep them open because  
12 there's not enough local support. But if there was a  
13 ferry, maybe other people would come over for dinner,  
14 do some shopping, and then return back to Seattle,  
15 which I would like to see.

16 But all-in-all, I just think it's a win-win  
17 situation, and the only thing that I see -- that I  
18 would like to further see is maybe a weekend  
19 schedule. So if there is a foot ferry that goes in,  
20 hopefully it will get used a lot and you guys can  
21 evolve the schedule.

22 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Any questions? Thank  
23 you very much.

24 MS. WOELKE: Thank you.

25 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And come forward.



0551

1 What is your name?

2 MR. RUTLEDGE: Ron Rutledge.

3 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Would you like to  
4 spell the last name?

5 MR. RUTLEDGE: R-u-t-l-e-d-g-e.

6 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And your address?

7 MR. RUTLEDGE: I'm at 30847 Hood Canal Drive  
8 in Hansville. It's not my mailing address, though,  
9 so don't send me anything.

10 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Would you raise your  
11 right hand?

12 Whereupon,

13 RON RUTLEDGE,  
14 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
15 herein and testified as follows:

16 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Please proceed.

17 MR. RUTLEDGE: I am here on my own behalf,  
18 but I am a business owner in Kingston, have been for  
19 six years now. Late 1998, I assumed the property  
20 that was the Kingston Town Tavern for 60 years prior,  
21 and through a lot of hard work and effort, converted  
22 it into the Main Street Ale House. I'm very proud of  
23 what we put there. During the year that we opened,  
24 we were also planning on a wonderful foot ferry  
25 through Referendum 49. Gravely disappointed when it

0552

1 was defeated by 651. And like the woman before me  
2 mentioned, there's a lot of good businesses that have  
3 struggled, many of them have survived, many of them  
4 have not. And I'm one of the fortunate ones that  
5 have survived. And it's been very, very hard, but if  
6 I didn't have as much dedication and belief that this  
7 community needs good businesses to survive and keep  
8 working hard, I would have given up a long time ago.

9 I believe the foot ferry will provide an  
10 enhancement to the quality of life, not only for  
11 residents, but for the business community, as well.  
12 I was born and raised in Seattle, Washington, 40  
13 years ago, I still consider it a very big part of my  
14 home, but I've lived here seven years, and this is my  
15 home now. I like to visit Seattle on a regular  
16 basis. It's difficult, it's awkward. I've taken  
17 every route, just along with every one of you, you  
18 know, looked for parking, hope that you don't get  
19 towed, pay \$12 on Bainbridge Island, you know, catch  
20 the ferry. I've paid \$25 round trip during the  
21 summertime every year just to have the convenience of  
22 a car. I've supported the Ferry System, probably  
23 about \$5,000 a year, as many of us have, even  
24 commuted in a work capacity when I first moved over  
25 here. I was doing real estate in Edmonds.

0553

1           I just want to say that we have a wonderful  
2 opportunity. We've had opportunities that have  
3 evaded us and slipped through our fingers through one  
4 reason or another, funding, lack of vision, and  
5 politics. And we've got a great opportunity for the  
6 private sector to step up and really, really make  
7 this community what it can be and make some positive  
8 change for Kingston. The business community needs it  
9 and I think a lot of the residents would really,  
10 really appreciate it, as well as the commuters, and I  
11 stand here in support of the application.

12           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. And thank  
13 you for a good meal that we enjoyed at your  
14 establishment, but we paid for it.

15           MR. RUTLEDGE: I'll get you a discount.

16           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Who else would like  
17 to testify? Come forward. What is your name?

18           MS. OSBORN: My name is Judy Osborn, and I  
19 live at 12324 N.E. Marine View Drive, Kingston.

20           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: How do you spell  
21 Osborn?

22           MS. OSBORN: O-s-b-o-r-n.

23           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Please raise your  
24 right hand.

25           Whereupon,

0554

1                                 JUDY OSBORN,  
2     having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
3     herein and testified as follows:

4                 MS. OSBORN: I got here late, but I wanted  
5     to share with you something that a cancer patient  
6     said to me when we were pushing for the last round of  
7     trying to get a ferry in. And she said what a  
8     blessing it would be for her, because she had to have  
9     her chemotherapy over in Seattle, and that meant she  
10    had to have someone drive her over and they would  
11    have to spend all day and she would be exhausted.  
12    She said, Can you believe that I could do it on my  
13    own if we had a passenger-only ferry. I could get  
14    into Seattle and then hop a cab and go on my own and  
15    I wouldn't have to be dependent.

16                And many of us will have to use the medical  
17    facilities over in Seattle, and just think of the  
18    boon that would be for these people, to give them  
19    their dignity back. Because I know it was very, very  
20    hard on her. So that's something else to think of.  
21    The connections between Seattle and Kingston have  
22    always been strong, and I really think it will boost  
23    the Kingston businesses. And again, we are -- the  
24    ferries are the number one tourist attraction for the  
25    state of Washington, and I think this could also be

0555

1 part of that. Thank you.

2 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Would  
3 anyone else like to testify? Come forward. What is  
4 your name?

5 MS. RUTHERFORD: Jillian Rutherford,  
6 R-u-t-h-e-r-f-o-r-d.

7 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Your address?

8 MS. RUTHERFORD: 3484 Twin Spits Road,  
9 Hansville.

10 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Please raise your  
11 right hand.

12 Whereupon,

13 JILLIAN RUTHERFORD,  
14 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
15 herein and was examined and testified as follows:

16 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Go ahead.

17 MS. RUTHERFORD: I'm speaking just as an  
18 individual. We're a family out in Hansville, and my  
19 husband, her father, is commuting to the Wallingford  
20 area every day. He commutes via the  
21 Edmonds-Kingston, and then driving. Our hope is,  
22 with the passenger ferry, that he would have an  
23 opportunity to eliminate his car and has easier  
24 public transportation from downtown to the  
25 Wallingford area. It would also cut his commute from

0556

1 about two hours and 15 or two and a half hours to  
2 just under two hours, which, when they're growing up  
3 this fast, means a lot. So he could get home to put  
4 her to bed and some nice things like that. So it's  
5 just personal, but we'd love to have it.

6 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Anyone  
7 else? Come forward. What is your name?

8 MS. RIEBLI: My name is Susan Riebli, and I  
9 live at 22841 Lorinda Road N.E. in Poulsbo. However,  
10 I'm buying a house up here in Kingston, just closing  
11 next month, and I would just like to --

12 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Before you go on,  
13 please raise your right hand.

14 Whereupon,

15 SUSAN RIEBLI,  
16 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
17 herein and was examined and testified as follows:

18 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Go ahead.

19 MS. RIEBLI: I would wholeheartedly like to  
20 support the Aqua Express ferry between Kingston and  
21 Seattle. My hope is, since I don't commute to  
22 Seattle, I work at Keyport, my hope is that it will  
23 be for -- there will be a weekend route, so that us  
24 people that just want to go over to the market for  
25 the day on Saturday and go to Nordstrom's and back

0557

1 home in a few hours can get over there without having  
2 to go to Bainbridge Island, which is such a hassle.  
3 So I'm very much for it and I know I have a lot of  
4 girlfriends that feel the same way. Thank you.

5 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. And I'd  
6 caution the audience again, please either be seated  
7 or be still. We need to be respectful of everyone  
8 who is here to testify. Would anyone else like to  
9 comment? Come forward. What is your name?

10 MS. BOOKEY: Robin Bookey.

11 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Spell your last name.

12 MS. BOOKEY: B-o-o-k-e-y.

13 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And I think you're  
14 going to have to raise the microphone just a little  
15 bit. What is your address?

16 MS. BOOKEY: 4435 N.E. Key Place, Hansville.

17 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Please raise your  
18 right hand.

19 Whereupon,

20 ROBIN BOOKEY,  
21 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
22 herein and testified as follows:

23 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Please proceed.

24 MS. BOOKEY: I'm speaking as an individual.  
25 This last winter, a study was done regarding the

0558

1 number of people that commute from Kitsap County to  
2 downtown or to the other side of the Sound for  
3 employment. I believe that number was in excess of  
4 28,000 per day. We moved over here in -- last  
5 September, and I found that it was perfectly clear,  
6 in order to make a living wage, that I would have to  
7 commute to the downtown area. My commute is four and  
8 a half hours a day. I'm anticipating the foot ferry  
9 to take off approximately two hours a day. Thank  
10 you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Anyone  
12 else? I see a hand back here.

13 MR. HAIL: Laird Hail, H-a-i-l, I'm at 746  
14 Fletcher Bay Road, N.E., Bainbridge Island.

15 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Please raise your  
16 right hand.

17 Whereupon,

18 LAIRD HAIL,  
19 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
20 herein and testified as follows:

21 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Go ahead.

22 MR. HAIL: I'm in favor of this operation.  
23 Many of us on Bainbridge would like to see the  
24 traffic congestion lowered. Coming over here this  
25 evening, it took me three times as long as it



0559

1 normally does to get off the island, and at least  
2 half the cars in visual sight, when I came off the  
3 bridge, made the turn up to Kingston. I don't  
4 believe that there's any near term plans for any  
5 widening of the road or a second bridge to lessen  
6 that. So this operation would definitely help.  
7 That's all.

8 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Come  
9 forward. What is your name?

10 MR. HALFHILL: Alan Halfhill.

11 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Spell the last.

12 MR. HALFHILL: H-a-l-f-h-i-l-l.

13 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And your address?

14 MR. HALFHILL: 21291 Howard Avenue, N.E.,  
15 Kingston, Washington.

16 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Raise your right  
17 hand.

18 Whereupon,

19 ALAN HALFHILL,  
20 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness  
21 herein and testified as follows:

22 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Please proceed.

23 MR. HALFHILL: I am speaking as an  
24 individual. I work in Poulsbo, but I often go over  
25 on the ferry, either the Kingston ferry or the

0560

1 Bainbridge ferry, and have to deal with a lot of  
2 traffic. I would like to see better alternatives to  
3 transportation in the entire region, whether it be  
4 rail, monorail, ferry, whatever. This area is  
5 choking.

6 I mean, we have great technology, we're a  
7 hub of technology, with Microsoft and other high-tech  
8 industries, but we have such low-tech ways of getting  
9 around. Also, what you're considering is adding a  
10 service that doesn't exist. With all the other ferry  
11 routes, there are passenger-only options of riding a  
12 regular ferry. Kingston to Seattle does not exist  
13 right now, and so a private company would like to add  
14 a service that is not being offered. So I very much  
15 am in favor of that. Thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Is there  
17 anyone else who would like to testify? I see some  
18 hands. Just one minute. All right. Come forward.  
19 What is your name?

20 MR. DODSON: Good evening. My name is Dutee  
21 Dodson, D-o-d-s-o-n.

22 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: All right. Actually,  
23 what I'm going to do -- oh, first, give me your  
24 address?

25 MR. DODSON: 2903-B Franklin Avenue East,

0561

1 Seattle.

2 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Before I swear you  
3 in, let me see a show of hands of everyone else who  
4 plans to testify. Okay. Could you all stand and  
5 raise your right hand? Ordinarily, we swear all the  
6 witnesses in at the beginning, it just saves a little  
7 time, so if you know who you are at this point, we'll  
8 do it this way. Please answer.

9 Whereupon,

10 ALL POTENTIAL PUBLIC SPEAKERS,  
11 having been first duly sworn, were called as  
12 witnesses herein and testified as follows:

13 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Okay. Now we'll  
14 proceed with you.

15 MR. DODSON: Thank you. Good evening. A  
16 lot of things have been said already tonight in favor  
17 of commuters, and there's a lot of quality of life  
18 issues that have come forward and are well known, so  
19 I don't need to repeat any of that, because I am  
20 myself not a commuter. I work in the maritime  
21 industry and have for a number of years out here in  
22 the Puget Sound.

23 I favor the Aqua Express and the  
24 passenger-only service in support of the maritime  
25 tradition that we have here in Puget Sound. Anything

0562

1 that we can do as a region to support and build  
2 strong maritime tradition that we built up over many,  
3 many years in this area, I'm fully in support of, and  
4 so I think that a passenger-only ferry service for a  
5 reasonable rate at high-speed is a good deal for the  
6 area.

7 We have some leaders in the industry who  
8 have stepped forward and have already proven their  
9 mettle, so to speak, with their vessels, and I think  
10 that, with their leadership, this definitely could be  
11 a go. Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Let's see  
13 another hand. Why don't you come forward.

14 MR. DICKERSON: Hi. My name's Jeff  
15 Dickerson, 27311 Balmoral, Kingston.

16 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: How do you spell your  
17 last name?

18 MR. DICKERSON: D-i-c-k-e-r-s-o-n.

19 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Go ahead.

20 MR. DICKERSON: I'm here as a private  
21 individual. I'm also a commuter. I -- the recent  
22 Kingston initiative, our initiative they had for  
23 Kitsap Transit to add the passenger ferry, I wasn't  
24 in favor of that and I voted against it because it  
25 incurred a tax that benefited few, but, you know, it

0563

1 only -- it affected everybody else inside our county.  
2 This particular service, I think, is a good idea  
3 because those that use it pay for all of it. It's  
4 not a subsidized endeavor. So that's one reason I  
5 think that it's something that we should do.

6           The other reason is I'm not exactly sure how  
7 come the union that works with the ferry is opposed  
8 to this service. I don't really understand. I'd be  
9 interested to know if that union supported I-695,  
10 that was a initiative that I think got a lot of us,  
11 including myself, we were very short-sighted, and I  
12 think it affected our ability to improve our transit  
13 systems in this region significantly. This private  
14 company that stepped forward I think is a great  
15 thing, and I support it. It certainly would cut my  
16 commute time down by nearly half. Thank you.

17           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Come in.  
18 I'll get you next. Give us your name.

19           MR. HILL: My name is Robert Hill, H-i-l-l.

20           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And your address?

21           MR. HILL: 1049 Rindall Court N.E., Poulsbo.

22           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Please proceed.

23           MR. HILL: I'm an individual commuter. I  
24 commute to the Southcenter area five days a week from  
25 the Poulsbo area or from Kingston, and I've timed

0564

1 them both. It's a two hour and 10 minute commute in  
2 the morning, two hour and 30 minute commute in the  
3 afternoon. If there were a passenger-only ferry from  
4 Kingston to Seattle, that would be an hour and 10  
5 minutes, roughly, each way, and I'm interested in the  
6 Kingston passenger-only ferry because we're building  
7 a home here. Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: How would you get  
9 from Seattle to Southcenter?

10 MR. HILL: Roughly the same way I do right  
11 now. Kitsap Transit van pool.

12 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: So the total time  
13 saved in the morning would be?

14 MR. HILL: About an hour in the morning,  
15 about an hour and a half in the afternoon, and my  
16 employer is quite flexible about my hours. Even  
17 though the offerings are kind of meager at this  
18 point, I expect that they'll improve.

19 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you.

20 MR. KITCHENS: My name is Doug Kitchens, and  
21 I live at 8783 University Point Circle in Bremerton.

22 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: How do you spell  
23 Kitchens?

24 MR. KITCHENS: K-i-t-c-h-e-n-s.

25 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Go ahead.

0565

1           MR. KITCHENS: I'd like to thank you very  
2 much for having this meeting. My wife commutes a  
3 great deal across the Sound, and an opportunity to  
4 visit with her is when there's a public hearing.

5           There's a component that hasn't been brought  
6 up as yet, is I'm a commercial real estate agent in  
7 Kitsap County. We have quite a few vacant spaces in  
8 Kingston. An opportunity here is presented to -- I  
9 agree with the gentleman who spoke earlier. This is  
10 a service that's not now in existence, and I'm very  
11 much in favor of it. I think it will enhance the  
12 quality of life in the Kingston area and we'll have  
13 opportunities for businesses to expand and grow.  
14 Thank you.

15           CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Who else?  
16 Come forward.

17           MS. HUMISTON: Hello, my name's Annie  
18 Humiston, H-u-m-i-s-t-o-n. I live at 27055 Ohio  
19 Avenue, Kingston. I can't believe I'm saying this,  
20 but I'm actually in favor of the ferry. I wasn't in  
21 the past. But I still have concerns about parking  
22 issues and other -- getting people in and out of  
23 Kingston to get them to the foot ferry. And I just  
24 hope that, working with Kitsap Transit, that Aqua  
25 Express is able to solve those issues so that local

0566

1 businesses are not impacted by commuter parking.

2 Thanks.

3 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Who else  
4 would like to -- I see a hand over here. Were you  
5 sworn in?

6 MS. PORTNOY: I was. I am. Good evening.  
7 I'm Darlene Portnoy, mayor of Bainbridge Island. My  
8 address of my office is 280 Madison Avenue. I'm here  
9 this evening -- I left the office early tonight and  
10 could drive up here in time to let you know that the  
11 people of Bainbridge Island are very supportive of  
12 the ferry system in general, of transit in general,  
13 and of the Kingston passenger-only ferry service. I  
14 am here to ask that the Commissioners weigh the  
15 significance of this decision and to support it. It  
16 means a lot to all of Kitsap County and it means a  
17 lot to Bainbridge Islanders.

18 And I don't want any of the Kingston  
19 residents to think the drive to the Bainbridge Island  
20 ferry every day to get to work, that we don't love  
21 seeing them come through Bainbridge Island, but I --  
22 I've heard, just the few minutes I've been here, many  
23 people could be spending times with their family  
24 instead of trying to drive to Bainbridge Island and  
25 to get onto a ferry, so -- and to park or take



0567

1 transit to do that.

2 I might also say that, as a mayor, I sit on  
3 a number of countywide boards with other mayors and  
4 county commissioners, as all come from Bainbridge,  
5 across the bridge, through Poulsbo, on the highway to  
6 get to other places. I see the traffic congestion  
7 start at about 2:30 in the afternoon, and it's all  
8 the way through Poulsbo, north into Kingston, and of  
9 course Silverdale and Bremerton, because people from  
10 all over the north end of the county are trying to  
11 get to a ferry that can get them to their work on the  
12 east side.

13 So I believe this passenger-only ferry will  
14 benefit not only Bainbridge Islanders, but everybody  
15 in North Kitsap. So I hope that you will give this  
16 consideration and support this request. Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Anyone  
18 else? We have one person who has -- wants to say one  
19 more thing, and I don't want this to set a pattern,  
20 but come forward.

21 MS. RUTLEDGE: My name is Donna Lee  
22 Rutledge. I assume I'm still sworn in.

23 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: You are still sworn  
24 in.

25 MS. RUTLEDGE: In my business, it's very

0568

1 important to me to do business with people of  
2 quality, and I have spent many years working with  
3 John Blackmon of Argosy Cruises, Darrell Bryan, and  
4 I'm just thrilled that Aqua Express is the company  
5 and the people behind the company are the very finest  
6 people and everything they do is for the right  
7 reasons. I just wanted to say that.

8 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Thank you. Would  
9 anyone else like to give testimony? In that case, I  
10 think we will adjourn the hearing. We did say this  
11 would run from six to nine. However, that's a very  
12 long period of time. We have received a lot of  
13 testimony here. Also, it is always -- it is possible  
14 to send in written comments. We need to establish a  
15 date by which we would close the record. Has one  
16 been established, Mr. Trotter?

17 MR. TROTTER: I believe this afternoon Judge  
18 Rendahl said she would -- letters received by next  
19 Tuesday would be included in the official file.

20 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: And Tuesday is the  
21 6th, I believe.

22 MR. TROTTER: Yes.

23 CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER: Okay. If we received  
24 correspondence -- I think we take e-mail. I'm not  
25 sure.

0569

1                   MR. TROTTER:  Yes, we do.  You may want to  
2 extend it a day because the Monday is a national  
3 holiday.

4                   CHAIRWOMAN SHOWALTER:  All right.  Well, we  
5 will keep it open till July 7th, if anyone wants to  
6 make a written comment.  Thank you all for coming  
7 tonight and thank you for being such a respectful  
8 audience.  It makes a difference and it signifies a  
9 very civilized community here.  The hearing is  
10 adjourned.

11                   (Public hearing concluded at 7:22 p.m.)

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