

## Public Comments by Case

**Total Comments:** 84

**In Favor:** 63

**Opposed:** 19

**Undecided:** 2

Filing Support	Commenter	Source	Comments
No			
	Dawn Vyvyan	Web	<p>Opposed to the company's operation of their vehicles on our roads and city streets. I believe they are a safety hazard to our neighborhood and community. I will be directly impacted by their traffic and their diesel pollution in my neighborhood on Fairview Ave. East. This is an avenue where there are many pedestrians, bicycle traffic, recreational use. They will be crossing a public park and walkway in order to enter Lake Union. Their means of entry is next to a city park, heavily used by kayakers, swimmers, paddle boarders, sun bathers, and pedestrian safety is at risk. Please deny their certification of use for their vehicles.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Dawn Vyvyan</p>
	Robert Burk	Web	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Aurora Bridge tragedy with a Ride-the-Ducks vehicle may be related to narrow lanes, but narrow lanes abound in Seattle. Military vehicles were not designed for traveling on Seattle streets. Ability for the driver/ especially one that is also conducting a 'Party on Wheels' in addition to driving.to see pedestrians and traffic is impeded by the design of the vehicle.</li> <li>2. When in the water the vehicles need to avoid anywhere where there are swimmers, kyakers paddleboarders and other water users that the driver may not be able to see or maneuver quickly enough to avoid.</li> <li>3. Seatttle is not alone for Ride-the-Ducks accidents. Please review: <a href="http://stoptheduck.com/">http://stoptheduck.com/</a></li> </ol>
	Robin Anne Ellis	E-mail	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to share my concern about the Ride the Ducks. I do not think they belong on the roads of Seattle at all (let alone in my neighborhood at Eastlake on Fairview Avenue East). The recent accident that killed 5 people was horrific. These menaces were created for war not for sight seeing in our fair city.</p> <p>Here are some of the concerns we share at Eastlake as Ride the Ducks is planning to build a new</p>

			<p>ramp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Fairview Ave East is not a well-maintained street and cannot handle weight from Ride the Duck Vehicles.</li> <li>· Fairview Ave East is the same width as, and more narrow than, the Aurora Bridge. RTD stated they will not drive on the bridge again.</li> <li>· Ride the Ducks traffic will make entering and leaving the more-than-seven driveways on Fairview Avenue East difficult and dangerous.</li> <li>· Bikers drive on Fairview Ave East instead of Eastlake Ave East.</li> <li>· The Cheshiahud Trail, provided by Seattle funding, encourages walkers to be on Fairview Ave East and with the new ramp, Ride the Ducks would cross this well-used trail interfering with walkers, cyclists, pets, etc.</li> </ul> <p>If the plan is implemented, 17 Duck vehicles will make 5 round-trip crossings of Fairview Ave. every 3.3 minutes for 10 hrs. per day, 7 days a week during peak season, estimated to be 4-5 months of the year. That means dangerous Duck vehicles could cross our street 170 times a day!</p> <p>Kind Regards, Robin Anne Ellis</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Additional comment received Dec 17:</p> <p>I am writing to express my concern about allowing the Ride the Ducks company to resume operations in Seattle.</p> <p>Ride the Ducks has been given an unsatisfactory rating and has 442 violations. Why should Ride the Ducks be authorized to operate on Seattle City Streets with an unsatisfactory safety rating? Ride the Ducks' actions and attitude belie their statements that safety is their number one priority. They dismiss the majority of the violations as “minor issues”; “record keeping”; or “bookkeeping”. However, a significant number of violations are for working drivers too many hours and for insufficient frequency of drug and alcohol testing. How is safety their number one priority while they operate with disregard and disrespect for the routine processes that support safe operations? Young lives have been lost and people have been critically injured (in addition to this past September a motor cyclist was dragged by a Ride the Duck vehicle in 2011 and he is now permanently disabled). These vehicles were created for military use, they don't belong on the streets of Seattle - at all.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Robin Anne Ellis</p>
	Blair Robbins	Web	The fatal accident on Seattle's Aurora Bridge raises serious questions about the safety of allowing

			<p>Ride-the-Ducks amphibious vehicles on the streets and waterways of our city. The lanes on the Aurora Bridge may be tight, but narrow lanes abound in our urban environment. Why should Seattle risk the lives of its residents by allowing oversized vehicles purely for entertainment purposes?</p> <p>ON LAND: Seattle is a city that is rapidly growing, as evidenced by the many construction projects underway. Not only is the downtown core becoming more densely populated, but also the neighborhoods adjacent to downtown. Increased density has brought traffic congestion and several road projects are underway or are planned. Seattle also has many bike commuters and a bike-share program. RTD's military vehicles were not made for congested city streets. They further hinder traffic flow and pose a serious safety risk to the diverse users of our city's streets which include primarily users much smaller than RTD vehicles -- cars, motorcycles, bicyclists, pedestrians. RTD drivers do not have full attention on the roads they also conduct a 'party on wheels'. Even if there were to be a separate person to do the entertaining, there is the distraction of the associated noise -- narrative, music, and spontaneous party noises like qwackers, screams/cheers/laughter.</p> <p>ON WATER: Ride-the-Duck's vehicles are amphibious and travel in our city's waterways. Seattle has made its waterways amenable to recreation by creating city parks on the water. Residents enjoy a variety of recreational activities on the water including swimming, paddleboarding, kayaking, windsurfing, daysailing and more. It is important that these recreationalists, who are primarily residents versus tourists, are safe from potential dangers such as RTD vehicles whose drivers may not see them or who may not be able to maneuver away from them in time. Let's take appropriate action to stop the possibility of a future tragedy involving RIDE-the-Ducks by getting them off Seattle's streets and waterways now! Thank you.</p>
	Peter Erickson	E-mail	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>With regard to Ride The Ducks, why are the profits of an individual enterprise being allowed to trump the obvious public safety violations related to this operation across the United States?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These 2 ton military vehicles were designed to transport troops across water and beach heads..... not through narrow city roads, bridges and urban streets.</li> <li>• You have hard data in the form of fatality accidents in Boston on the water and now Seattle on the streets _ all of it clearly demonstrating the fact that these vehicles have inherently poor visibility for their drivers in tight, densely trafficked urban environments. This improper use of a military vehicle on urban streets results in deaths and injury of innocent people. Why is the UTC allowing this?</li> <li>• Of much lesser concern, Ride The Ducks also requires its drivers who are already taxed operating a difficult piece of equipment to also entertain over a microphone, act as tour guide and change music to keep its passengers happy. We have national laws about driving and talking on</li> </ul>

			<p>the phone so why are they allowed to function as they are?</p> <p>Please explain some rational logic as to why these vehicles are clearly being exempted from normal public safety laws. If this is approved again I'd like to know how you'll prevent surplus military tanks from being allowed to escort tourists through cities given the precedent of Ride The Ducks</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely Peter Erickson</p>
	Brigitte Bertschi	E-mail	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>With regard to Ride The Ducks, why are the profits of an individual enterprise being allowed to trump the obvious public safety violations related to this operation across the United States?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These 2 ton military vehicles were designed to transport troops across water and beach heads..... not through narrow city roads, bridges and urban streets.</li> <li>• You have hard data in the form of fatality accidents in Boston on the water and now Seattle on the streets _ all of it clearly demonstrating the fact that these vehicles have inherently poor visibility for their drivers in tight, densely trafficked urban environments. This improper use of a military vehicle on urban streets results in deaths and injury of innocent people. Why is the UTC allowing this?</li> <li>• Of much lesser concern, Ride The Ducks also requires its drivers who are already taxed operating a difficult piece of equipment to also entertain over a microphone, act as tour guide and change music to keep its passengers happy. We have national laws about driving and talking on the phone so why are they allowed to function as they are?</li> </ul> <p>Please explain some rational logic as to why these vehicles are clearly being exempted from normal public safety laws. If this is approved again I'd like to know how you'll prevent surplus military tanks from being allowed to escort tourists through cities given the precedent of Ride The Ducks</p> <p>Thank you. Sincerely, Brigitte Bertschi</p>
	Margaret Allen	Web	<p>Ride the Ducks Safety Concerns</p> <p>Dear UTC Members,</p>

			<p>I am writing to ask that you diligently consider the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists as you review the Ride the Ducks application to operate in a residential Seattle neighborhood.</p> <p>As I'm sure you are aware, the Ride the Ducks amphibious vehicles are very wide and very tall. The driver, even if he/she is paying attention, cannot see people or vehicles that are below, to the side, and/or in front of the bow of the "boat". By the current plan, Duck vehicles will be crossing the busy Cheshiaud pedestrian walkway and bicycle path that the city recently rebuilt specifically for pedestrian and bicycle use. Persons using this pathway every day include most of the employees of the adjacent Puget Sound Blood Center as well as the nearby Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. I also see FHCRC cancer patients walking to and from their appointments on this pathway--people who really aren't in any condition to be running out of the way. There is no crossing signal when a DuckBoat would be approaching, and, given that DuckBoats will be crossing this pathway every 15 minutes, putting up a train crossing-style barricade isn't really practical—the barricade would be down virtually all of the time. If allowed to proceed, the current plan is just asking for a new accident to occur.</p> <p>According to the current plan, the DuckBoats will come down Newton Avenue from Eastlake, a major north-south thoroughfare. Right now, cars park along one side of Newton, which leaves only one driving lane on this "two-way" street. It is tight for a single car to drive down this street next to the parked cars, and two cars cannot pass. A DuckBoat could not even pass a bicyclist on this street. The wide sides of the DuckBoats may well overlap onto the sidewalk here, putting pedestrians on Newton at risk. Further, there is no street light or even a stop sign at the corner of busy Eastlake Avenue and Newton, where the DuckBoats would be making their turns. (Again, remember the frequency will be every 15 minutes.) These military vehicles were not at all designed for operating in dense urban areas.</p> <p>I hope the UTC will carefully weigh the safety concerns of Seattle citizens against the interests of this commercial enterprise. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Margaret Allen, Eastlake resident and Cheshiaud pathway user</p>
	Gail Jensen	E-mail	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I have talked with Lucas in your office to see if my comments came through on your Comment Form via your website. Since we don't know, here they are again in a little different form. Thank you for accepting my comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The residents of this condominium building are extremely concerned about safety on Fairview Ave E between E Blaine and E Newton where the Ducks will travel.</li> <li>• Fairview Ave E is not a well-maintained street and cannot handle weight from Ride the Duck vehicles. Too many potholes as it is.</li> <li>• Fairview Ave E is the same width as, and in places more narrow than, the Aurora Bridge. RTD stated they will not drive on the bridge again because it is too narrow.</li> <li>• Fairview Ave E is a two-lane street and two cars have trouble passing. Trucks often drive</li> </ul>

			<p>through and sometimes “double-park” in the street.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTD traffic will make entering and leaving our more-than-seven , in a two block distance, difficult and dangerous.</li> <li>• Many, many bikers drive on Fairview Ave E instead of Eastlake Ave E.</li> <li>• The Cheshiahud Trail, provided by Seattle funding, encourages walkers to be on Fairview Ave E. RTD crosses this trail every 3-4 minutes.</li> <li>• Hundreds of people per day cross Fairview E for parking, business, and general walking – often with dogs and children. People on the street are not easily visible to the Duck drivers.</li> </ul> <p>Submitted by: Gail Jensen</p>
	Maureen Neitz	E-mail	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I live and work in Seattle, and I either ride my bike or walk to work. My path crosses that of the Ride the Ducks. These vehicles are a hazard to pedestrian, bicyclists and motorist, and as Seattle continues to grow, the hazard intensifies. The Ducks are known to have very poor visibility for cars, and other vehicles let alone pedestrians and bicyclists. Ride the Ducks has a terrible record nationwide in terms of accidents and maintenance of vehicles. Why are the profits of an entertainment company taking precedence over the needs for public safety on on the already crowded, and narrow streets of Seattle?</p>
	Arlene Fairfield	E-mail	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>With regard to Ride The Ducks, why are the profits of an individual enterprise being allowed to trump the obvious public safety violations related to this operation across the United States?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These 2 ton military vehicles were designed to transport troops across water and beach heads..... not through narrow city roads, bridges and urban streets.</li> <li>• You have hard data in the form of fatality accidents in Boston on the water and now Seattle on the streets _ all of it clearly demonstrating the fact that these vehicles have inherently poor visibility for their drivers in tight, densely trafficked urban environments. This improper use of a military vehicle on urban streets results in deaths and injury of innocent people. Why is the UTC allowing this?</li> <li>• Of much lesser concern, Ride The Ducks also requires its drivers who are already taxed operating a difficult piece of equipment to also entertain over a microphone, act as tour guide and change music to keep its passengers happy. We have national laws about driving and talking on the phone so why are they allowed to function as they are?</li> </ul> <p>Please explain some rational logic as to why these vehicles are clearly being exempted from normal public safety laws. If this is approved again I’d like to know how you’ll prevent surplus military tanks from being allowed to escort tourists through cities given the precedent of Ride The</p>

			<p>Ducks.</p> <p>Thank you. Sincerely Arlene Fairfield</p>
	Rob Widmeyer	E-mail	<p>Recent news stories document that Duck vehicles have been involved in multiple accidents in multiple cities with fatalities. I note at least 20 fatalities, and numerous other injury accidents. As there are only 100 - 140 of these vehicles operating in the entire US, the number of accidents, and fatalities is very significant, over any measured period – many times the rate of other large vehicles per mile driven. Please review the information provided on: <a href="http://stoptheduck.com/">http://stoptheduck.com/</a> , or just in the recent news stories. Then compare the accident record of Duck vehicles with Large Truck and Bus Crash Facts 2013 from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (attached). The only conclusion possible is that Duck vehicles are extraordinarily unsafe and should not be allowed on Seattle city streets.</p> <p>Thank you, Rob Widmeyer</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Additional comments, recieved Dec. 17, 2015:</p> <p>John, Thank you for promptly sharing the staff report. After reading the summary and the entire report, I am surprised and baffled that the staff is recommending that RTD resume operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-RTD was given an UNSATISFACTORY safety rating;</li> <li>-RTD was cited for 442 violations;</li> <li>-RTD “information packet” (in UTC document file); press release (attached); and statements by Brian Tracey (Seattle Times) all tout RTD “safety culture” while dismissing and disrespecting the meaning and significance of 442 violations. This is all PR babble.</li> </ul> <p>RTD received a significant number of violations for working drivers more hours than allowed and for not testing for alcohol and drugs frequently enough. Regarding the axle issue, RTD chose to “inspect” vs “replace” in a situation where there was high risk of catastrophic failure. These are serious operational shortcomings that can only happen if that is the company’s culture. Safety is not priority 1 at RTD. Economic concerns seem a higher priority.</p> <p>I ask that you share my comments with the staff and commissioners, and I urge the commissioners to maintain the suspension of RTD operations.</p> <p>Thank you, Rob Widmeyer</p>
	Kim Ladd	E-mail	To Whom It May Concern,

			<p>I am writing as a concerned Lake Union resident located on Fairview Ave E and the impact Ride The Ducks vehicles will have on our neighborhood.</p> <p>The constant traffic of these over sized vehicles during the summer months present a serious safety threat to dog walkers, bicyclists, runners and swimmers. Our community has also proudly supported and participated in various marathon activities throughout the years which participate along Fairview Ave E. (I.e. See Jane Run Race, Lake Union 10k Run, and Lake Union Loop). How will the constant traffic from Ride the Ducks impact these events and lifestyle of those of us who live here?</p> <p>Thank you, Kim</p>
	Phyllis Hatfield	Web	<p>Please require a great deal more investigation of the Sept. 24 accident involving Ride-the-Ducks before putting them back into service on our streets. They are a hazard--too wide to fit in lanes, too high to see bicycles, children, even other small vehicles beneath them. They are antiquated vehicles unsafe in contemporary city circumstances.</p>
	Ben Franks	E-mail	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>As a quick introduction, I'm a longtime Seattle resident and vocal opponent of the Ride-the-Ducks operations. Over the past three years, following a proposed driving route change to the Ride-the-Ducks operations along a narrow corridor of streets in Seattle, I've joined with hundreds of Eastlake neighborhood residents and many community organizations (Seattle Parks Department, neighborhood community councils, Floating Home Association, Center for Wooden Boats, etc.) to raise substantial safety issues with the Ducks.</p> <p>Briefly, these safety issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• numerous Seattle Police reports of Ride-the-Ducks accidents with cars, cyclists, and pedestrians attest to the Ducks poor visibility while driving on land and wide turning radius</li> <li>• numerous accidents involving amphibious Duck boats in other places (Philadelphia, Arkansas, London) resulting in accidents and casualties attest to an outrageously high number of deaths per amphibious vehicle in operation; these are patently unsafe vehicles and tours</li> <li>• substantial risks with a newly proposed tour driving route in Seattle that is characterized by unprotected and very frequent intersections (every 3.5 minutes) with the pedestrian-centric Fairview Ave Green Street, Cheshiahud Loop commuter trail, direct adjacency to city bike share stations, forthcoming Howe Street Steps pedestrian plaza and crossing, and proposed dedicated cycle-track as part of the Fairview Ave bridge replacement.</li> </ul>



			<p>Recently, following the Aurora Bridge tragedy resulting in senseless death and widespread injury, Ride-the-Ducks themselves have voluntarily agreed to no longer drive on the Aurora Bridge because the bridge's narrowest lanes (at 9.5ft) were too narrow to be safe for the Duck boats. And yet, many of the city streets they drive on as part of their tour are narrower than that. If the Ducks themselves recognize Aurora Bridge lanes as too narrow to be safe, how can narrower city routes - - with the added complications of pedestrians, cyclists, parked cars -- not be seen as even more unsafe?</p> <p>If left unchecked, hundreds of daily pedestrians, cyclists, work commuters, and Seattle Parks visitors will be in jeopardy from the amphibious Duck vehicles driving along our narrow city streets with their reduced visibility, wide turns, and deadly, antiquated mass.</p> <p>I understand that the UTC and NTSB are seriously investigating maintenance issues of these military amphibious vehicles. However, what is being done to regulate &amp; ensure the public safety if these military vehicles are returned to service? Will Duck boat transit along city streets be sensibly prohibited? Will Duck boat travel intersecting with widely used pedestrian and cyclist corridors or public parks be prohibited?</p> <p>Allowing the Ducks to simply return to business-as-usual along different roadways while waiting for another preventable tragedy is unconscionable.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ben Franks</p>
	Dan Penovich	E-mail	<p>Dear Sir, or Madam, Regarding the use of 70 year old Duck Boats as TRANSPORTATION, MY OPINION there UNSAFE and as long as their allowed to be used as they have GOTTEN away with lives will at risk. BUILT like a BULLDOZER they have NO CRUSH NO GIVE. They are WAR MACHINES NEVER intended to be used to ENTERTAIN the public, but rather Used by the MILITARY NOT THE GENERAL PUBLIC.</p> <p>Last time I checked Tour Buses and Tour boats were still being sold.</p> <p>These Duck Boats are 70 years old and are ANTIQUES of THE MILITARY. Touring the PUBLIC IS NOT WHAT THEY WERE BULIT FOR, THEY NEEDED TO BE REMOVED FROM DAY IN DAY OUT SERVICE.</p> <p>As they do to much damage in the event of a collision</p>
	Charles Mickelson	E-mail	<p>Hello Mr. Govenor, I'm writing about the recent tragedy on the Aurora bridge involving a Ride</p>

			<p>The Ducks vehicle and a charter bus. The question I have is, when does it become a good idea to put a 70 year old 20 ton tank built to withstand mortar fire on the beaches of Normandy driven by an idiot wearing a jester hat using hand puppets going 50 miles an hour on the streets of one of the most congested cities in America and then to not even have them inspected on any kind of regular basis? The owner of the Duck company is wrong. They are not loved by we who live here. They are simply pollution on our streets and as we all know..dangerous. Please keep the ban in effect permanently. It has been so very peaceful having them off the streets these past few days. I'm very sorry it has taken this tragic event for that to occur. Cheers! Charles Mickelson/business owner in Seattle</p>
	<p>Edward B. Murray, Mayor, City of Seattle</p>	<p>Mail</p>	<p>City of Seattle Mayor Edward B. Murray</p> <p>December 16, 2015</p> <p>Chairman David W. Danner Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW Olympia, WA 98504-7250</p> <p>Yesterday, the Utilities and Transportation Commission completed a Compliance Investigation Review pertaining to a fatal collision on the City of Seattle's Aurora Bridge involving a Ride the Ducks vehicle. In response to the UTC's findings, the City respectfully requests that Ride the Ducks' vehicles be prohibited from returning to service in the City of Seattle until the company's unsatisfactory safety rating is resolved and the City has had time to implement additional safety regulations or agreed upon conditions for Ride the Ducks to continue operations.</p> <p>On September 24, 2015, a Ride the Ducks vehicle collided with a charter bus on the Aurora Bridge, tragically resulting in five deaths and numerous injuries. The UTC investigation found Ride the Ducks committed 442 avoidable violations of Washington's Vehicle and Driver Safety Code requirements, and resulted in a proposed unsatisfactory safety rating. Yet, despite these findings, Ride the Ducks' vehicles may be allowed to return to Seattle streets before these safety concerns are sufficiently addressed. These circumstances are cause for great concern for the residents of Seattle.</p> <p>The Review notes that Ride the Ducks has announced its vehicles will no longer travel the Aurora Bridge, and that all future tours will include two employees: one driver and one narrator. However, neither of these announcements have been formalized by an enforceable regulation or agreement. Following the UTC's final determinations, on or after December 21, the City requests that it be</p>

			<p>provided ample opportunity to comment upon and formalize Ride the Duck's commitments before the UTC would potentially allow such vehicles-with an unsatisfactory safety rating- back among drivers, cyclists and pedestrians on Seattle's streets.</p> <p>The City's request is further supported by the reality that Ducks' vehicles traveling on Seattle's Fremont Bridge, which been proposed to the UTC as an alternative route, would pose even greater safety risks to the public. The Fremont Bridge has the city's highest volumes of bicycle traffic and significantly higher pedestrian volumes than other alternative routes, according to the Seattle Department of Transportation. The inherent vulnerability of cyclists and pedestrians to serious or fatal vehicle collisions is only increased by the size, sight lines, and configuration of the Duck vehicles. Thus, the alternative route proposed by Ride the Ducks is unacceptable to the City of Seattle, which should be provided ample time to address this issue through legislation or agreement .</p> <p>State law requires the UTC implement the least restrictive reasonable means to protect the public with respect to the time and nature of the cessation of services. Here, where the City of Seattle and its residents are at risk of sharing the road with a company that has 442 avoidable safety violations, an unsatisfactory safety rating, and a proposed alternative route that poses significantly more risk than its previous route over the Aurora Bridge. The only reasonable action is to allow the City the opportunity to address these significant safety concerns. The City respectfully requests that the UTC not allow any Ride the Ducks vehicle to return to Seattle's streets until its unsatisfactory safety rating is resolved and Ride the Ducks commitments regarding alternative routes to the Aurora Bridge and distinct driver-narrator roles are reduced to legislation or an agreement.</p>
	Charles Wheeler	Web	Don't approve the ducks to start up again. Its just too dangerous.
	Barbara	Phone	<p>&lt;comment provided via voicemail&gt;</p> <p>Ms said she rode on the Duck and became ill due to diesel fumes. The low-sided configuration of the vehicle did little to protect passengers from the fumes. Ms added that her office is about 1/2 block from the Duck route, and she can smell the fumes from there.</p>
<b>Undecided</b>			
	Linda Knight	Web	I have lived on Fairview Ave since 1969. The motor, bicycle, foot traffic along Fairview can be quite congested. I am very concerned about adding Ride the Ducks into this environment and would like to see these vehicles prohibited from using Fairview and other narrow streets in the Eastlake neighborhood. Allowing Ride the Ducks vehicles in these areas will lead to tragedy I am afraid.
	Susan N. Hoff	Mail	PLEASE: Keep Ride the Duck vehicles off Fairview Ave

			<p>There is renewed community interest after the tragic accident on the Aurora bridge to again state our safety concerns with the proposed 6 ton WWII beach landing crafts traveling our frontage road, both directions, when we who live and work on Fairview already face daily road congestion with an overcrowding of parked vehicles, delivery trucks maneuvering to waterfront and street side businesses, autos seeking neighborhood short cut off Eastlake, and those riding bikes or walking the Cheshiahud trail.</p> <p>Our Fairview roadway from the Hart Crowser Bldg at 1910 Fairview Ave E to Newton Street will provide less lane width than the 9 ft. 5 in. lane on the Aurora Bridge. Ride the Duck's owner, Brian Tracey has conceded that the lane width on the Aurora bridge is too narrow for his vehicles use hence they will no longer travel that road. I ask: Is our narrower lane on Fairview considered safer? If the proposed plan is implemented these oversized transport vehicles maneuvering our street with up to 150 trips daily during peak season increases the risk for all who live, work and travel to or thru this part of Fairview.</p> <p>Pictures and letters documenting our existing street hazards have been sent over the past 3 years to SOOT and Seattle city officials.</p> <p>I ask that you please reconsider permitting the use of "Ride the Duck" vehicles on this stretch of Fairview in the interest of safety for all.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Susan N Hoff</p>
Yes			
	Casey Belew	Web	<p>I am writing in hopes to get the Ride the Ducks back open. I am from the Tri-Cities and come to visit Seattle 1-2 times a year. I've gone on a Ride the Ducks tour once and very much enjoyed it! I had a great time and thought it brought a wonderful element to city. I remembered thinking how awesome and energetic the staff was, and hoped to ride them again sometime in the future. I hope you take my comments into consideration. I appreciate your time.</p> <p>Casey Belew</p>
	Larry Kezner, Captain m/v Fremont Avenue	E-mail	<p>To the Professional Staff the State Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Regarding: Ride the Ducks of Seattle</p> <p>The Ride The Ducks of Seattle is a member of the Northwest Certified Charter Boat Association. Members of this organization represent the majority of the U.S. Coast Guard inspected and certified vessels in the North West. We (NWCCBA) as a group review new and existing regulations from the City of Seattle, State of Washington and U.S. codes and regulations that</p>

			<p>pertain to safe and legal operation of our vessels on the commercial waterways of the State of Washington.</p> <p>Ride The Ducks of Seattle is an active participant in this process both as a member of the NWCCBA and in it's internal practices and training.</p> <p>I am writing to you to encourage your commission to restore the operational permits to the Ride the Ducks.</p> <p>Respectfully yours,</p> <p>Larry Kezner, Captain m/v Fremont Avenue Seattle Ferry Service, LLC</p> <p>President, Northwest Certified Charter Boat Association</p>
	Amanda Swanson	Web	<p>I would like to submit a comment supporting letting the Ride the Ducks be reopened in Seattle, WA. I have personally visited Seattle many times and have taken part in a ride the duck tour. It was great fun and definitely worth my time. I also took my staff on the ride the ducks tour when we had meetings in Seattle. Walking downtown Seattle and seeing the ride the ducks buses driving around brings a smile to many faces, as their music is fun and upbeat and the people riding it are having a fun time. The duck bus changes the atmosphere where ever it is, the crowd on the street started laughing and dancing to the music when the bus drove by. That is a great reason to keep the duck tours running. Also looking further into the company, the duck tours have many employees and taking that income away from them is not right. They also give back their community, they have opportunities for charities to to be supported by the company with auction baskets and donations.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Ride The Duck Tours in Seattle, WA, is worth having around to keep the city smiling, the tourists happy, residents employed, and charities supported.</p> <p>Thank You.</p>
	Peter Zevenbergen	Web	<p>With respect to the Ride the Ducks hearings I recognize the enormous tragedy that has taken place. Accidents do happen and should be avoided and I would like to thank you for taking the time to fully investigate this tragedy and take steps to prevent.</p> <p>As this is happening I would also encourage you to consider the jobs and livelihoods of the over 100 people who work for Ride the Ducks. This company has been a terrific member of the</p>

			<p>community for years and we shouldn't rush to judgment. I would encourage you to allow the Ducks to go back into operation without delay in order to save what has become a icon of Seattle.</p> <p>When ever we have out of town relatives in and want to show them the city Ride the Ducks is the way to go! They give a terrific perspective on all things that are truly unique to Seattle from the roadways to the waterways.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my point of view.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Peter Zevenbergen</p>
	Marisa Whitaker	Web	<p>Just a quick comment regarding "Ride the Ducks." Great company, local family owner who has a history of community involvement,numerous philanthropic endeavors and a staple in Seattle. Would love to see them back on the road again promoting our beautiful community.</p>
	LeAnne Johnson	Web	<p>I am writing in support of the swift re-opening of Ride the Ducks of Seattle. My Family first noticed Ride the Ducks in 1997 and we were fascinated by the concept of a land and water tour. We finally had the opportunity to take a duck tour in 2005 and had a blast. Since that first tour we have gone on three or four additional tours including their Holiday Lights Tour. We have also recommended the tour to family and friends from all over the country. We always feel safe in Ride the Ducks vessels, whether on the city streets or on Lake Union.</p> <p>It is my understanding that the vessels are regularly inspected by the DOT and the Coast Guard and all of the captains carry CDL endorsements and are Coast Guard certified and that these endorsements and certifications are re-evaluated often. I understand also, that training is an ongoing occurrence at Ride the Ducks of Seattle.</p> <p>Ride the Ducks of Seattle employs well over 100 people. A long delay in re-opening Ride the Ducks may cause many of these employees to be put out of work. Many of them have families to support. And I am sure Ride the Ducks is one of the more profitable tourist attractions in Seattle, if not the entire state, bringing in much needed revenue to the city and state.</p> <p>It is a sad day in Washington when there are no Duck Tour vessels on the water. People from all over the world have enjoyed Seattle aboard a Ride the Ducks tour vessel. Please don't deny others the opportunity to experience Seattle in a way that is truly unique. I ask that you approve the swift re-opening of Ride the Ducks of Seattle.</p>

			Sincerely, LeAnne Johnson
	Kristin Nelson	Web	Ride the Ducks is a Seattle icon. It's a great company to have in Seattle. I can't imagine seattle without Ride the Ducks. It employs 130 people also. Please keep ride the ducks open in Seattle.  Sincerely Kristin Nelson
	Timothy M Sloane	Web	Please get them back on the road. I see all the joy they bring to tourists and locals every day as their home operation is in my neighborhood. I've taken many friends and family on the Ducks when they visit and have always felt safe and had fun. The accident was tragic, and let's not punish this business for something that no one ever wanted to happen.
	elaine swanson	Web	My family frequents Seattle and on one of our family get aways all six of us Rode the Duck. It was such a fun experience I recommend it to anyone visiting the city. I laughed so hard my stomach hurt.I believe the attraction adds to the City and is great for tourists or frequent visitors like ourselves.It will be a sad day if the city decides to take away this attraction.
	Rachel Zajac-Fay	E-mail	Dear Madam or Sir;  I'm writing on behalf of support for the Ride The Ducks company in Seattle. Although I am not a Seattle citizen, I visit the city frequently and have participated in a Ride the Ducks tour. I fully support the company, and support their continued operation of tours in Seattle.  During my first visit to Seattle, the very first thing I did was take a Ride the Ducks tour. This was the best way to explore a new city - the tour went through different parts of the city, and the captain provided not only historical information, but also information about local attractions and things to do in the city. By completing this tour at the beginning of my first Seattle visit, I was able to plan out the rest of my week with attractions and restaurants that I learned about on the tour. What great marketing for the city of Seattle businesses! Had I not taken the tour, I would have missed out on some great experiences in Seattle.  Safety is always important. I personally understand this as I work in a field that has a very high focus on safety in the workplace. It's very tragic and unfortunate whenever accidents occur. Unfortunately, there is always risk associated with all things that we, as humans, do in life. Accidents happen in cars. Accidents happen on planes. Accidents happen on tour and charter buses. Should tour and charter buses be banned from cities as well? There is risk in everything we do on a daily basis, and although risk is there, that doesn't mean that companies should be closed down because of an accident. Per the Ride the Ducks website, their captains hold a US Coast Guard Master's license, commercial driver's license, are CPR and first aid trained, and complete

			<p>additional training programs. As a customer, this makes me feel confident and safe to take a tour knowing that the company is ensuring it's captains have proper license, training, and certifications. Their website also states that the vehicles are inspected, and paperwork is audited by DOT and United States Coast Guard. The Ride the Ducks company is following proper safety protocol, and ultimately, that is very important. It is very sad and unfortunate about the recent incident that occurred, but one accident should not shut down a company that does follow DOT, USCG, and OSHA safety regulations. Being properly trained is extremely important, however, no matter how well trained staff are (in any job), risks will always exist, and it's simply not realistic to shut down companies because of a risk that exists in many other aspects of city life.</p> <p>I do not want to see the Ride the Ducks Seattle company shut down - they bring a fun, unique tour to the city that brings positive impacts to other businesses and the local economy. I support Ride the Ducks of Seattle continuing operation.</p> <p>thank you for your time, Rachel Zajac-Fay</p>
	Dave Bolnick	E-mail	<p>I am one of the fortunate Seattlelites - my office is on Lake Union. From there I can see several of the quintessential sights of Seattle – the Space Needle, house boats, float planes, and ducks – not the avian type but the fun ones – the ducks of Ride the Ducks. When you see a Duck, near or far, you know it's filled with folks who want to experience Seattle in the most fun way possible. I can't wait to see the Ducks return to Lake Union – I will be there to wave a whole-hearted welcome back.</p> <p>Dave Dave Bolnick Research and Development Manager, Streambox Inc</p>
	Michael Brustkern & Miriam Shoemaker	E-mail	<p>October 26th 2015</p> <p>Governor Jay Inslee C/O Charles Knutson Transportation and Land Use, Senior Policy Advisor</p> <p>Dear Governor Inslee,</p> <p>I am writing to voice my support for the return of Ride the Ducks of Seattle this fall, once necessary safety inspections have been completed.</p>



Getting the Duck vehicles back on the road and in the water provides many economic and cultural benefits to our beautiful city:

- Ride the Ducks generates 130 well-paying jobs that support our local economy. Right now, the company is doing everything it can to preserve its employees' livelihood, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability.
- For 19 years, more than three million people have enjoyed the unique Seattle experience from on a Duck. Ride the Ducks is an institution, one of the top attractions for tourists and area residents and a key reason to return- and buy more goods and services- time and time again.
- Ride the ducks also creates a multiplier effect for our local tourism industry by giving riders a firsthand look at local businesses on its route and serving as a referral source to numerous other attractions.
- The company gives back to the community by donating to thousands of local charities. In the last four years alone, Ride the Ducks has donated nearly \$100,000 in free tickets and charters to organizations across the region. Working with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Ride the Ducks has welcomed seriously ill children and their families on special tours every year in addition to giving monetary donations. And thousands of community members have been touched by its Random Ducks of Kindness campaign.

Keeping Ride the Ducks off the road after it has met rigorous safety inspections and made reasonable changes to its route and operations would be unjust. As a member of Seattle's business community, I can attest that it would send a chilling message to other small businesses in our city.

As a long-term resident of Downtown Seattle, we recognize the positive impacts Ride the Ducks has on city residents and visitors alike. Often, we are stopped by tourists asking two questions:

1. Directions to the Space Needle and;
2. Directions to Ride the Ducks.

They are usually thrilled to learn they are both located in the same place. The streets are too quiet. We miss the music, singing and fun. They add to the urban bustle.

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

I look forward to seeing Ducks passengers quacking their way down our streets and waterways soon.

Best,

			Michael Brustkern
	Jeanne McNamee	E-mail	<p>Governor Jay Inslee C/O Charles Knutson Transportation and Land Use, Senior Policy Advisor</p> <p>Dear Governor Inslee:</p> <p>I am writing to voice my support for the return of Ride the Ducks of Seattle this fall, once necessary safety inspections have been completed.</p> <p>We are so fortunate to have Ride the Ducks in our city. I have taken many of my family members and friends who come to visit from around the world on the Ducks because it is one of the most memorable experiences they will have and talk about forever. I am quite sure I have been on over 15 Duck rides in the past 10 years and hosted well over 60 Seattle visitors.</p> <p>Getting the Duck vehicles back on the road and in the water provides many economic and cultural benefits to our beautiful city:</p> <p>? Ride the Ducks generates 130 well-paying jobs that support our local economy. Right now, the company is doing everything it can to preserve its employees' livelihood, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability.</p> <p>? For 19 years, more than three million people have enjoyed the unique Seattle experience from on a Duck. Ride the Ducks is an institution, one of the top attractions for tourists and area residents and a key reason to return – and buy more goods and services – time and again.</p> <p>? Ride the Ducks also creates a multiplier effect for our local tourism industry by giving riders a firsthand look at local businesses on its route and serving as a referral source to numerous other attractions.</p> <p>? The company gives back to the community by donating to thousands of local charities. In the last four years alone, Ride the Ducks has donated nearly \$100,000 in free tickets and charters to organizations across the region. Working with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Ride the Ducks has welcomed seriously ill children and their families on special tours every year in addition to giving monetary donations. And thousands of community members have been touched by its Random Ducks of Kindness campaign.</p>

			<p>Keeping Ride the Ducks off the road after it has met rigorous safety inspections and made reasonable changes to its route and operations would be unjust. As a member of Seattle's business community, I can attest that it would send a chilling message to other small businesses in our city.</p> <p>Not to mention, and certainly not to jinx but the thought of having another Seattle Seahawk Super Bowl parade without the Ducks in it is ...well, just sad. The visual of our team on the Ducks riding down 4th avenue is one the 12's will never forget. The Ducks are a part of our city.</p> <p>For these reasons and many others, it is my hope and expectation that you will also extend your support for Ride the Ducks' return to service, once transportation investigators put their stamp of approval on its vehicles.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Jeanne McNamee President McNamee Media</p>
	Tom Griffith	E-mail	<p>Governor Jay Inslee C/O Charles Knutson Transportation and Land Use, Senior Policy Advisor</p> <p>Dear Governor Inslee:</p> <p>I am writing in support for the return of Ride the Ducks of Seattle this fall, once necessary safety inspections have been completed.</p> <p>Getting the Duck vehicles back on the road and in the water offers so much to our beautiful city of Seattle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride the Ducks employs 130 from our local job market. Ride the Ducks is doing everything it can to preserve these jobs, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability.</li> <li>• Personally, I have taken out-of-town guests on Ride the Ducks to experience Seattle in this unique fashion. This institution has been one of our local tourist attractions for 19 years and continues to bring visitors back to our city, which helps boost business for local establishments like my own.</li> <li>• Having two restaurants near Ride the Ducks, I count on the tourists it brings by way of the guided tour as well as its referrals.</li> <li>• Part of what makes this company stand out, is its commitment to community involvement. Ride the Ducks has donated nearly \$100,000 in free tickets and charters to organizations across the region. Working with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Ride the Ducks has welcomed seriously ill children and their families on special tours every year in addition to giving monetary donations. And thousands of community members have been touched by it Random Ducks of</li> </ul>

			<p>Kindness campaign.</p> <p>Restricting Ride the Ducks business after it has met rigorous safety inspections and made reasonable changes to its route and operations would be unjust. As a member of Seattle's business community, I can attest that it would send a chilling message to other small businesses in our city. For these reasons and many more, it is my hope and expectation that you will also extend your support for Ride the Ducks' return to service, once transportation investigators put their stamp of approval on its vehicles.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing Ducks passengers quacking their way down our streets and waterways soon.</p> <p>Sincerely, Tom Griffith Owner TS McHugh's &amp; Ten Mercer Restaurants</p>
	Mary Black	E-mail	<p>Governor Jay Inslee C/O Charles Knutson Transportation and Land Use, Senior Policy Advisor</p> <p>Dear Governor Inslee:</p> <p>I am writing to voice my support for the return of Ride the Ducks of Seattle as soon as possible, once necessary safety inspections have been completed.</p> <p>Getting the Duck vehicles back on the road and in the water provides many economic and cultural benefits to our beautiful city:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride the Ducks generates 130 well-paying jobs that support our local economy. Right now, the company is doing everything it can to preserve its employees' livelihood, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability.</li> <li>• For 19 years, more than three million people have enjoyed the unique Seattle experience from on a Duck. Ride the Ducks is an institution, one of the top attractions for tourists and area residents and a key reason to return – and buy more goods and services – time and again.</li> <li>• Ride the Ducks also creates a multiplier effect for our local tourism industry by giving riders a firsthand look at local businesses on its route and serving as a referral source to numerous other attractions.</li> <li>• When we host out-of-town guests, the Ducks is their favorite activity and creates goodwill for this beautiful city.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The company gives back to the community by donating to thousands of local charities. In the last four years alone, Ride the Ducks has donated nearly \$100,000 in free tickets and charters to organizations across the region. Working with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Ride the Ducks has welcomed seriously ill children and their families on special tours every year in addition to giving monetary donations. And thousands of community members have been touched by its Random Ducks of Kindness campaign.</li> </ul> <p>Keeping Ride the Ducks off the road after it has met rigorous safety inspections and made reasonable changes to its route and operations would be unjust. For these reasons and many others, it is my hope and expectation that you will also extend your support for Ride the Ducks' return to service, once transportation investigators put their stamp of approval on its vehicles.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing Ducks passengers quacking their way down our streets and waterways soon.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mary Black</p>
	Capt. George Todd	E-mail	<p>I believe it to be in the best interest of Seattle that Ride the Ducks of Seattle be assisted in every way possible to resume serving our public as soon as possible - I can say from myriad personal experiences (see attached story ) that the Ducks bring considerable color and good humor go Seattle's waterfront.</p> <p>Fair Winds – Capt. George Todd</p> <p>Capt. George Todd  Founding Director, KidSail  Brightening the Lives of Ill Children  With Sailing Trips on the Healing Sea</p>
	Bob	E-mail	<p>Governor Jay Inslee  C/O Charles Knutson</p> <p>Dear Governor Inslee:</p> <p>I am writing to voice my support for the return of Ride the Ducks of Seattle this fall, once</p>

		<p>necessary safety inspections and repairs have been completed.</p> <p>Getting the Duck vehicles back on the road and in the water provides many economic and cultural benefits to our beautiful city:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ride the Ducks generates 130 well-paying jobs that support our local economy. Right now, the company is doing everything it can to preserve its employees' livelihood, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability.</li><li>• For 19 years, more than three million people have enjoyed a unique Seattle experience on a Duck. Ride the Ducks is an institution, one of the top attractions for tourists and area residents, and a key reason to return – and buy more goods and services.</li></ul> <p>o The employees of our Pier 54 Fish Bar have duck quackers and call to each Duck and its passengers as they pass by the Fish Bar. Without the Ducks, they are lonely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The company gives back to the community by donating to thousands of local charities. In the last four years alone, Ride the Ducks has donated nearly \$100,000 in free tickets and charters to organizations across the region. Working with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Ride the Ducks has welcomed seriously ill children and their families on special tours every year in addition to giving monetary donations. And thousands of community members have been touched by its Random Ducks of Kindness campaign.</li></ul> <p>Keeping Ride the Ducks off the road after it has met rigorous safety inspections and made reasonable changes to its route and operations would be unjust. Many transportation companies experience accidents and other events that result in inspections, but few are forced to cease business operations entirely during such periods. As a member of Seattle's business community, I can attest that it would send a chilling message to other small businesses in our city.</p> <p>For these reasons and many others, we hope that you will also extend your support for Ride the Ducks' return to service, once transportation investigators put their stamp of approval on its vehicles.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing Ducks passengers quacking their way down our streets and waterways soon.</p> <p>Keep Clams,</p>
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			Bob
	Michael Ryan	Web	<p>I understand the need for caution concerning safety of Seattle's roads, but I'd like to see the ducks returned to operation as soon as safely possible. It's a fun and enlightening way for visitors to experience the city. Please be fair and expedient in the hearings.</p> <p>Thanks for listening. - Michael Ryan</p>
	Deena	E-mail	<p>I know there was a tragedy that occurred between the ride the duck and a bus. It is awful and sad. There are so many sad people. However, I don't think you should remove a piece of seattle from our tourism. Please please consider keeping this landmark a part of our seattle streets. I hope I haven't ended my fun riding the duck. Thank you for listening xoxoxoxo</p>
	Carianne Smith, Sheraton Seattle Hotel	Mail	<p>Governor Jay Inslee C/O Charles Knutson Transportation and Land Use, Senior Policy Advisor</p> <p>Dear Governor Inslee:</p> <p>I am writing to voice my support for the return of Ride the Ducks of Seattle this fall, once necessary safety inspections have been completed.</p> <p>Getting the Duck vehicles back on the road and in the water provides many economic and cultural benefits to our beautiful city:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride the Ducks generates 130 well-paying jobs that support our local economy. Right now, the company is doing everything it can to preserve its employees' livelihood, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability .</li> <li>• For 19 years, more than three million people have enjoyed a unique Seattle experience on a Duck. Ride the Ducks is an institution, one of the top attractions for tourists and area residents, and a key reason to return - and buy more goods and services.</li> <li>• Ride the Ducks also creates a multiplier effect for our local tourism industry by giving riders a firsthand look at local businesses on its route and serving as a referral source to numerous other attractions. Visit Seattle, for one, calls on the organization monthly to donate tickets for familiarization tours promoting our great city.</li> <li>• The company gives back to the community by donating to thousands of local charities. In the last</li> </ul>

			<p>four years alone, Ride the Ducks has donated nearly \$100,000 in free tickets and charters to organizations across the region. Working with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Ride the Ducks has welcomed seriously ill children and their families on special tours every year in addition to giving monetary donations. And thousands of community members have been touched by its Random Ducks of Kindness campaign.</p> <p>Keeping Ride the Ducks off the road after it has met rigorous safety inspections and made reasonable changes to its route and operation would be unjust. Many transportation companies experience accidents and other events that result in inspections, but few are forced to cease business operations entirely during such periods. As a member of Seattle's business community, I can attest that it would send a chilling message to other small businesses in our city.</p> <p>For these reasons and many others, it is my hope and expectation that you will also extend your support for Ride the Ducks' return to service, once transportation investigators put their stamp of approval on its vehicles.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing Ducks passengers quacking their way down our streets and waterways soon.</p> <p>Best,  Carrienne Smith  Area Director of Sales &amp; Marketing, Seattle, Portland and Western Canada  SHERATON SEATTLE HOTEL</p>
	Dan and Karen Nix	E-mail	<p>Dear Governor Inslee,</p> <p>We are writing you in hopes that you will give strong consideration to re-instating the business status of "Ride the Ducks Seattle". This is a Seattle Icon that we feel needs to be re-instated and sustained for a variety of reasons. While NO ONE can disagree to the tragedy, it is our firm belief that the owners and operators of the Ducks are doing everything they can to eliminate any similar events in the future.</p> <p>It is also our belief that the evolution of the Aurora Bridge, which in our opinion is unsafe with 4 lanes ESPECIALLY with no center divider, played an equal role in this tragedy. We noticed that the bridge has not been shut down (yet) so why would we continue to only penalize The Ducks?</p> <p>Getting the Duck vehicles back on the road and in the water provides many economic and cultural benefits to our beautiful city:</p>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride the Ducks generates 130 well-paying jobs that support our local economy. Right now, the company is doing everything it can to preserve its employees' livelihood, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability.</li> <li>• For 19 years, more than three million people have enjoyed the unique Seattle experience from riding on a Duck. Ride the Ducks is an institution, one of the top attractions for tourists and area residents and a key reason to return – and buy more goods and services – time and again.</li> <li>• Ride the Ducks also creates a multiplier effect for our local tourism industry by giving riders a firsthand look at local businesses on its route and serving as a referral source to numerous other attractions.</li> <li>• The company gives back to the community by donating to thousands of local charities. In the last four years alone, Ride the Ducks has donated nearly \$100,000 in free tickets and charters to organizations across the region. Working with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Ride the Ducks has welcomed seriously ill children and their families on special tours every year in addition to giving monetary donations. And thousands of community members have been touched by its Random Ducks of Kindness campaign.</li> </ul> <p>We have no doubt that there have been lessons learned through this tragedy. We just hope the State doesn't continue with "Business as usual" and take a blind eye to their role.</p> <p>Thank you very much,</p> <p>Dan and Karen Nix</p>
	Brittany Yen	E-mail	<p>Governor Jay Inslee via Charles Knutson, Transportation and Land Use Senior Policy Advisor</p> <p>Dear Governor Inslee:</p> <p>I am writing to you in support of the return of the Ride the Ducks of Seattle this fall, once necessary safety inspections have been completed.</p> <p>As a Seattle resident and return patron of the Ride the Ducks tours, I can attest that getting the</p>

			<p>Duck vehicles back on the road and in the water provides many economic and cultural benefits to our beautiful city and community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride the Ducks generates 130 well-paying jobs that support our local economy. Right now, the company is doing everything it can to preserve its employees' livelihood, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability.</li> <li>• For 19 years, more than three million people have enjoyed the unique Seattle experience from on a Duck. Ride the Ducks is an institution, one of the top attractions for tourists and area residents and a key reason to return – and buy more goods and services – time and again.</li> <li>• Ride the Ducks creates a multiplier effect for our local tourism industry by giving riders a firsthand look at local businesses on its route and serving as a referral source to numerous other attractions. Visit Seattle, for one, calls on the organization monthly to donate tickets for familiarization tours promoting our great city.</li> <li>• The company gives back to the community by donating to thousands of local charities. In the last four years alone, Ride the Ducks has donated nearly \$100,000 in free tickets and charters to organizations across the region. Working with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Ride the Ducks has welcomed seriously ill children and their families on special tours every year in addition to giving monetary donations. And thousands of community members have been touched by its Random Ducks of Kindness campaign.</li> </ul> <p>Keeping Ride the Ducks off the road after it has met rigorous safety inspections and made reasonable changes to its route and operations would be unjust.</p> <p>For these reasons and many others, it is my hope and expectation that you will also extend your support for Ride the Ducks' return to service, once transportation investigators put their stamp of approval on its vehicles.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing Duck passengers quacking their way down our streets and waterways soon.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Brittany Yen</p>
	Amanda Zuber	Web	<p>I would love to see Ride the Ducks of Seattle be re-opened immediately. Seeing the Ducks on the road and how happy the people are that are on board is one of my favorite parts of driving home to Fremont every day. I miss seeing the joy on people's faces every day!</p> <p>I truly believe that Ride the Ducks is an icon in the Seattle tourist industry and that having it remain closed is negatively impacting our local economy. Please consider re-opening Ride the</p>

			Ducks immediately.
	Ralph Loveland	E-mail	<p>Dear Mr. Knutson,</p> <p>On behalf of my family and myself, I am writing to the governor's office in support of Seattle's Ride the Duck. Having met him just one time, I would not consider myself an acquaintance of the owner, Brian Tracey. But I am well acquainted with his company and how much enjoyment it has brought to people in our area, as well as visitors from around the world. We frequently entertain friends from out of state, and Ride the Ducks has proven to be one of the more popular outings with our guests. The Duck's talented staff contributes a great deal to it's popularity, and puts forward a very positive "face of Seattle" to visitors. They add a great deal to Seattle's somewhat limited tourism capabilities, plus I understand Ride the Ducks also contributes significantly to various local groups and causes, as well.</p> <p>Understandably a thorough safety inspection of the Ducks' vehicles is required, but I hope that both the governor's office, and the Utilities and Transportation Commission can take whatever steps necessary to insure this will be done in a timely fashion before Ride the Ducks' loses their talented drivers, support staff, and possibly their entire business. It would be a shame if Seattle lost this capability to both entertain as well as inform visitors about all Seattle has to offer.</p> <p>Again, my hope is that the governor and the UTC will do everything necessary to expedite the inspection process, thereby preserving this important resource.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Ralph Loveland</p>
	Tom Douglas	E-mail	<p>Dear Governor Inslee,</p> <p>We look forward to you clearing the Ride the Ducks Corporation to ride again in Seattle. Everyone was heartbroken at the Aurora Bridge accident, and we trust with your thorough investigation and internal fixes, we can avoid anything like that happening in the future. Ride the Ducks is an important tourist attraction in downtown Seattle. We know they can make all the changes you recommend to safely start their business again as soon as possible. Thanks for your attention to this matter.</p> <p>Regards, Tom Douglas Chef/Owner Tom Douglas Restaurants</p>
	Lori F. Knuckey	E-mail	Governor Jay Inslee via Charles Knutson,

			<p>I am writing in support of Ride the Ducks. I work in Wallingford right on 34th which is on their route. When we're out on Lake Union we really enjoy seeing the smiling faces of tourist and locals as they pass by. The Ducks are such a great way to show off our beautiful city to visitors. The ride exposes people to our unique neighborhoods and then hopefully they come back to these neighborhoods to shop, eat and drink.</p> <p>I can not imagine our streets without the Ducks!</p> <p>Sincerely, Lori Knuckey</p> <p>Lori F. Knuckey Managing Broker Windermere Real Estate Co.</p>
	David Capocci	Web	<p>Horrific accidents as seen on the Aurora bridge claim victims in a terrible manner. Please do not claim more victims by shutting down a business with a proven track record of safety.</p> <p>Ride the Ducks employs many and is enjoyed by even greater numbers. Accidents happen. It's terrible. But don't let the fallout become people losing jobs and a tourist attraction that is a Seattle institution.</p>

	Paul Villa	E-mail	<p>Dear Governor Inslee,</p> <p>While the Ride the Ducks accident in Seattle was tragic, we need to also keep in mind the 130 employees of RTD (Ride the Ducks) that can not work and make a living while the state unnecessarily delays their re-opening.</p> <p>I know public safety is your number one concern, and RTD has fully cooperated with the investigation. They have voluntarily decided to add a tour guide with the driver. While this may not have prevented the horrible accident, I believe it demonstrates their commitment to safety.</p> <p>Our local tourism industry also depends on RTD.</p> <p>Please consider speeding up the process to re-open RTD so employees can get back to work and our tourism economy can get back on track.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Paul Villa</p>
	James R. Kemper, DDS	E-mail	<p>Dear Governor Inslee,</p> <p>As a lifetime Seattle resident who now lives in downtown Seattle, I am writing to ask that you do everything you can to get the Ducks back on the road as quickly as possible once the necessary inspections have been completed. Many of us who live in the downtown area have become big fans of the Ducks as they drive through our city spreading goodwill and filling the streets with the happy faces of so many visitors. They have become such a big part of what makes our city so vibrant.</p> <p>I am sure that over the years there have been millions of folks who toured our city on the Ducks. My wife worked for Ride the Ducks for several years and found them to be a wonderful company to work for. They employ over 100 people and these folks are no doubt very anxious to return to work.</p> <p>There is no doubt that the accident was a terrible tragedy and not allowing the company to resume operations quickly would compound the tragedy further for the families of the 100 or so employees.</p> <p>Please consider these facts when reaching your final decision.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your help.</p>

			<p>Sincerely,</p> <p>James R. Kemper, DDS</p>
	Fred Grimm	E-mail	<p>Dear Governor Inslee –</p> <p>Bring Back the Ducks! As a long-time resident of Seattle, I wholeheartedly recommend that the state do whatever safety checks are prudent and require any safety improvements that are advisable. But then let the Ducks get back to doing what they do best: Showing off Seattle in a fun refreshing way! We always take visitors out on the Ducks – there isn't a better way to get a sense of what Seattle is about. And even when we don't have visitors some years, we still go out on them. It opens our eyes to what we often take for granted, this beautiful city we call home.</p> <p>Thanks —Fred Grimm</p>
	Thor Radford	E-mail	<p>Dear Mr Knutson,</p> <p>In my short time as an employee of Ride the Ducks of Seattle, having started this past April, I have been constantly impressed with the level of training and dedication to the safety of our guests, employees and the community at large. I have worked with many companies in my 46 years and have found very few that "practiced what they preached" as well as Ride the Ducks. It is often a platitude to say that "safety is job one," and most of the time as an employee you find that safety takes a second place to profit motive. I want to tell you that that has decidedly not been my experience here. From the beginning Ride the Ducks has made it clear that they take all aspects of guest and public safety seriously. There has been no time that I could not or was not expected to bring even the most seemingly trivial issues to the attention of our management or maintenance staff.</p> <p>The systems that we have in place, I was told, were designed to be over and above what any agency would require, and were designed to adhere to our particular corporate culture of safety first. So far I have never had a doubt about that. Training was thorough and challenging. Daily inspection reports continue to be scrutinized on a daily and even hourly basis to make sure that nothing is omitted. There is a camaraderie built up from the more senior captains that creates a culture of helping each other out. I feel that some of that is related to the idea that we are all sea captains in addition to commercial drivers and there is an unwritten rule of the sea that you want what is safest for your crew.</p> <p>I know that you and your committee are working to determine whether we should be allowed to</p>

			<p>return to work. I realize that the tragedy that created this inspection was horrible and shall not be allowed to happen again. I have faith that this company has the right culture, training, and commitment to safety to be allowed back on the road. That commitment has been shown to me over and over on a daily basis since my first meeting here and it continues even as you and your committee works to ensure the safety of those who share the roads with us.</p> <p>As we wait, the management of Ride the Ducks has formulated new internal rules and procedures that will create an ever safer experience for both our guests and our community. We are changing the routes we take to minimize our potential to have any kind of incident like this again. We are implementing a new Driver and Guide system to eliminate the issue of distraction while driving and we are updating many internal processes and checklists from the maintenance side to be sure that nothing gets overlooked.</p> <p>I deeply respect what you are doing to keep us safe, and most of all I respect the terrible loss that has occurred for the families of those who were the casualties of this tragic accident. That being said, we, the employees here at Ride the Ducks, have a unique job and take it seriously. Regardless of how we may look, dress or act during our workday, we are ultimately very serious about being safe while we have fun. We love this city and the people who both live and travel here. We want more than anything to get back to work showing off the wonderful place we live in. I ask that you allow us to return to work as soon as possible.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact me at the number below if you have any questions or would like any further information about my experiences with Ride the Ducks.</p> <p>Yours truly,</p> <p>Thor Radford</p>
	Penny LeGate	E-mail	<p>November 8, 2015</p> <p>Dear Governor Jay Inslee,</p> <p>I am writing in support of Ride the Ducks of Seattle. Our city was devastated by the tragic accident in September, leaving families and the entire community reeling over the terrible loss of life. The owner of the company, Brian Tracey, is a longtime friend and former colleague whom I respect and admire. I have witnessed how this tragedy has also devastated him, his family, and all of his employees.</p> <p>Knowing Brian for decades, I can vouch for his meticulous management of the Ducks tour</p>

			<p>company, and I can assure you he would never cut corners on safety to save a buck. It's just not in his DNA. For years I watched him battle hard through all sorts of huge obstacles to create the company from the ground up. He deftly steered it through the tough start-up years to become a highly successful business.</p> <p>Every time out of town friends or relatives come here to visit, I recommend they take the Duck Tour. Without exception, every one of them has loved it. And when they return, they often want to ride the Ducks again! And as a person who is involved with lots of different charities, I often turn to Brian for donations. On every occasion, the company has generously supported these organizations through donations of tickets, sponsorship of tables, and more.</p> <p>The Ride the Ducks Company of Seattle truly adds something unique to our community--a chance to visit lots of sites by land and sea. Beyond that, the captains make it entertaining and fun for all involved--even for people they pass by on the street! The company has become a Seattle icon, and gives tourists a great thumbnail view of our beautiful city. Passengers are intrigued by the neighborhoods they visit and are usually enticed to continue their exploration, returning places such as the waterfront, Pioneer Square, Belltown, the downtown shopping area, and the Pacific Science Center.</p> <p>I could go on and on about the value of the company, Brian's generous payment of employees during this suspension of business, the integrity of the organization and more, but I will make this short.</p> <p>After years of safely transporting tens of thousands of delighted passengers through our city, enhancing their experience in Seattle, and pumping millions of tourism dollars into our economy, it would be a crime to shut the Ducks down. Please quickly perform the necessary reviews to get them up and running again as soon as possible. We need them back.</p> <p>Yours truly,</p> <p>Penny LeGate</p>
	RC Kelmer	E-mail	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Bob Kelmer and I'm writing this in behave of Ride the Ducks of Seattle. I know this may not hold water for this issue but I have been asked to voice my thoughts on why the Ducks should be allowed to thrive in the area.</p> <p>I have been a professional entertainer all my life circus clown, puppeteer, actor and stand up comedian. The art of live entertainment is dying to the point of extinction in many areas. The Ducks offer a great way for tourist like myself to get to know the area and city in a historical and</p>



			<p>entertaining way. To remove this would be a shame. Now I have been to your fine city once but never have ridden the Ducks but have ridden them in Wisconsin Dells and Branson Mo. I found that the history of the Ducks and what they were used for in the military was fascinating and just that part of the Duck tour is worth the price of the ticket.</p> <p>So please take my heartfelt plea and make the right decision.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your time! RC Kelmer</p>
	Patrick J. Najou	E-mail	<p>Dear Sir,</p> <p>I would like to let you know how important it is for me allowing Ride the Ducks of Seattle to resume business as soon as the State Utilities and transportation Commission give their approval to operate again.</p> <p>RTD has been in business for over 19 years and has become the number one tour operator in Seattle with a rating of 4.5 stars on Trip Advisor. This is quite an achievement due to the very hard work of this company and its employees.</p> <p>We entertain and introduce this beautiful city and its history to thousands of locals and tourists from all over the nation and the world. Over time RTD amphibious vehicles became a land mark of Seattle and the Captains, its ambassadors. It is so sad to walk through downtown and not see these vehicles anymore. It seems something is missing.</p> <p>As an employee of RTD, I can ensure you I had never had the privilege to work with a company so focused on safety and training before. The atmosphere at work is extremely professional while remaining fun and enthusiastic. It's feels like working in a family setting. Also, RTD as you know plays a big role in the community and their employees are always eager to volunteer in helping or participating in any community events should the need arise.</p> <p>In short, I enjoy very much working for such a great company while sharing my love of the city with our guests from all over the world.</p> <p>I am confident you will make the right decision in allowing RTD to resume the tours as soon as possible.</p> <p>I thank you for your time and your understanding, Sincerely,</p> <p>Patrick J. Najou</p>
	Lark Ohta	E-mail	<p>Hello Governor Inslee, I hope all is well.</p> <p>I would like to express my thoughts on Ride the Ducks Seattle and their return to business in</p>

downtown Seattle and Lake Union. I am certain that I speak for everyone when I express my sadness over the awful accident in September. There are no words. From such sadness, I sincerely believe that the Ducks have done all that is possible to fortify their operating model, to insure that their vehicles are safe, and to redesign a safe and vigilant route for their tour.

Ride the Ducks has been a client of ShoWare Ticketing for almost 9 years, and they are the most wonderful company and group of employees. They are cheerful, positive, reliable, and they provide a delightful professional experience in every sense. None of us can imagine ShoWare Ticketing without Ride the Ducks Seattle in our work family.

On a more personal level, I moved to Seattle from San Francisco in 2008, and it rapidly became my most beloved City and my home. I worked hard to develop an office and clients in the Puget Sound Region and I now work with almost every attraction in the area. That being said, downtown Seattle is a jewel. I have had 3 grown children move to Seattle and we all live in and love this City, and Ride the Ducks is an especially loved part of the landscape.

The intimate layout and bustling fresh feeling of Seattle streets, tree canopies, and landmarks make it unique, and nothing is more iconic than the Ride the Ducks tours and the happy sounds of their tour guides and their laughing patrons. If you eat lunch outside of Dahlia's Bakery on 4th Street (which we do often on weekends), you will see a Duck every 15 minutes, and waving and smiling at their guests is a regular part of our weekend ritual. Walking downtown or near the Market, you expect to hear the sound of "quackers" and crazy music streaming from one of the ubiquitous Ducks. It has been quiet since September, and understandably so---- but I pray that when all is ready, the Ducks will return to brighten the streets of Seattle. I bring a crazy amount of California friends to Seattle and the sound of the Ducks is a huge part of their memories. I have even included a photo taken last August when my life- long CA girlfriends all visited to celebrate my 60th birthday. We took a ride on the Ducks and had an absolutely wonderful experience. This photo hangs in all of our homes as one of our most perfect memories. (That is me in the hat...oh, and with the intertube )

Please know how much the Ducks are loved and valued and allow them to return to brighten downtown Seattle streets. Seattle without Ride the Ducks is like Seattle without the Needle. They need to come home.

Thank you for listening.  
All the best,  
Lark Ohta

			Lark Ohta Director of Sales- Seattle
	Megan Lee	E-mail	<p>November 9, 2015</p> <p>To: Governor Jay Inslee, via Charles Knutson, and anyone at the Washington State transportation commission who may be concerned</p> <p>Having spent over a decade in tourism-related work here in Seattle I know the importance of the DUCK boats, not only for those visiting, but locals too. They truly are the best way to explore our unique city, known for its water and array notable sights. Being up-high and on a well-established route, they are the perfect overview – a chance to see other activities visitors may like to do here, up-to-the-minute insight and a chance for all onboard to learn more history or ‘see it as its made’ in our dynamic city.</p> <p>As editor/producer of the Pike Place Market News community newspaper (for 10 years) I frequently hear from locals and tourists about what they think; the overwhelming consensus is that the city misses the DUCKS. People from all social stations mention this, from our executive director to people in the park to merchants and those just passing through. They say the vessels are “an important and recognizable part of our city!” They are part of our identity. The staff at the Pike Place Information Booth highly recommends them. I also give tours for the Preservation &amp; Development Authority’s School Program, as well as for the Market Foundation, and groups seem very interested in Seattle’s DUCK boats. I often hear people say the lack of them leaves a void.</p> <p>I write this not only because for the last several seasons I have also been a Captain. I do believe DUCK boats are intrinsic to the fiber of Seattle. Being in the captain’s seat offers special insight into how happy these excursions make people, learning while being entertained. They do bring true joy (99% of the time) and that is very important. They’re known to be the best way to get ‘a sense’ of our city, which seems to change, daily. The experience is not a stagnant recording.</p> <p>Having this insight, I believe they’re as safe as most vehicles. The company’s team of mechanics is unparalleled, and dedicated – not to mention the thorough, daily check-out protocol. Frequent safety training and situational updates are constant. The current upgrades follow this tradition, I only see the experience getting better.</p> <p>In closing, I just want to say Seattle misses the DUCKs and wants them back!</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

			Megan Lee
	Kenneth St. John	E-mail	<p>To the Honorable Jay Inslee, Dear Governor Inslee,</p> <p>In February of this year I was laid off from my position as an aerospace engineering manager. After 30 years in the business and 40 years of unbroken employment I suddenly found myself unemployed and seemingly unwanted. The state unemployment advisor suggested I take a sabbatical but instead I opted to earn my Master's license from the USCG after which I applied to Ride the Ducks of Seattle (RTD). RTD offered me a position as Captain and along the way, great insight into how to run a company.</p> <p>Three things impress me about RTD; their attention to safety, their devotion to serving as ambassadors for the city of Seattle and the diversity in their workforce.</p> <p>Before I was allowed on the road alone I had to complete six weeks of rigorous training, presented my Master's license, earn my commercial driver's license, prove I could deliver the tour material and demonstrate to two different managers that I could navigate the roadway and waterway safely while delivering the tour material. I have never worked for a company as safety conscious as RTD, and I've worked for some world class companies. I saw that attention to safety not only directed at the captains, but to every member of the RTD staff.</p> <p>There is an overarching spirit at RTD that we are ambassadors for the city of Seattle. As captains, we work hard to learn and present the history of the city humorously but accurately. I am probably in the minority of RTD employees as I am not a Seattle resident but through RTD I became passionate about presenting our city to the world. I have had many guests say to me after the tour; "We love the Ducks and every time we have a visitor we take them on a tour." I believe that this is because RTD serves as a wonderful introduction to the city, kind of a sampler that points out what to do and where to go. This spirit extends beyond Captains. Often employees at both ticket locations are called upon to answer questions about the city not only from guests but from passersby. I've seen them do this time and again with great courtesy.</p> <p>Perhaps the best part of the job was working with the individuals at RTD. Every day I worked with mechanics, past professionals like myself, college students, retirees on second careers, you name it. There was no "type" except that we all enjoyed working with people. Many of us are family men with mortgages, car payments and the like. Many are students working to earn money for that next semester. RTD employs so many good people who like me, are now on unemployment and looking elsewhere for jobs because of the uncertainty surrounding RTD.</p> <p>I've only been a RTD employee for a short time but it is like no other company I've worked for in so many positive ways. I believe that it is imperative that our state finds a way to get the Ducks back on the road once the state inspections are satisfied. It means so much, not only to the employees, but to the city of Seattle. In many ways, Ride the Ducks an integral part of the city of Seattle and the gateway to tourism here.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention,</p>

			Sincerely, Kenneth St. John
	Pat Stejskal	E-mail	<p>To Whom It Concerns,</p> <p>We have been frequent visitors to the Northwest and in particular Seattle. We have ridden on The Ducks and also have told other friends to be sure to do the same when they visit your beautiful city. When we boarded the vehicle for the ride, we were very impressed with the attention to our safety. The driver was very knowledgeable and drove responsibly during our trip.</p> <p>I am in hopes that the Ducks will be in service again. I know it has been a difficult time for all involved.</p> <p>The Ducks provide a great opportunity for tourists to see your beautiful city, and we are in hopes that this terrible freak accident in no way takes them away permanently. They have become part of the iconic and unique "Seattle experience" for so many.</p> <p>Most sincerely, Pat Stejskal Ann Arbor, Mi. 48103</p>
	Dean and Ingrid Heathcote	E-mail	<p>November 9, 2015</p> <p>Governor Jay Inslee C/O: Charles Knutson Utilities and Transportation Commission P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250</p> <p>RE: Ride the Ducks</p> <p>We support Ride the Ducks. For 19 years, it's been a major attraction for the Seattle area tourist scene. As life long northwest residents, growing up on Queen Anne and Magnolia areas, we enjoy watching the Duck boats with their fun-filled loads of tourists singing and waving as they go by. What fun to watch and even better to ride. More than three million people have enjoyed its unique experience, making Ride the Ducks an institution in Seattle. We urge your full support for keeping Ride the Ducks a part of Seattle's vibrant tourist industry.</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>Dean and Ingrid Heathcote</p>
	Lisa Miller	E-mail	Dear Sir

Where do thousands of people flock to every year in Seattle? Who is Seattle's No.1 Land and Water tour? Who has won the "Best City Tour" by King 5's evening Magazine for the past 8 years? Who carried the Seahawks in the Super Bowl Parade? Who has the friendliest and well-organized Ticket booth staff, Captains and Mechanics in Seattle?... Ride the Ducks of course. My name is Lisa Miller and I am an employee of Ride the Ducks, Seattle. I am originally from New Zealand so when my family and I arrived in this beautiful city many years ago, one of the first tours we ever did was Ride the Ducks.

We were one of many thousands of tourists who have taken a ride on these amphibious ducks since they opened in 1997. Through word of mouth and advertising, people flock to the ducks for fun and knowledge of our breathtaking city from all our fabulous funny captains who entertain them for one and a half wonderful hours.

People gather from all the continents of the world, cruise ships that visit the Seattle Port each year and the local Seattleites that finally venture on the ducks after seeing them for years driving around their streets with passengers smiling and waving their arms in joy.

Ride the Ducks has been such a wonderful second family for myself and many of my fellow employees. We have very caring and well-organized leaders, Brian Tracey and Mikie Coffman, who help make this company run so smoothly. Safety is always number one at the ducks from the maintenance on all our ducks down to our parkers in the parking lot guiding our ducks in and watching out for all the pedestrians who are waiting to board.

They look after our community and us. Brian and Mikie join us in all our company events each year and our annual sports event, which is well enjoyed. We are one big family.

One of the great accomplishments that I am most proud of is their Random Ducks of Kindness in which Captains go around our community giving gifts to random people whether it be handing popsicles out to bystanders or paying for groceries at the supermarket. They also donate a substantial sum of tickets to non-profit organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Many major Seattle companies, Amazon, Boeing and Microsoft to name a few, use the ducks for moral events several times a year. Many an occasion we also have schools and retirement home residents coming out as well to enjoy an outing on the ducks. The waterfront businesses also benefit from random promotions from the Captains along the duck route. Many times I have heard from the tourists when they have returned, enquiring about the shops down there.

Being one of the ticket booth staff, I enjoy talking to each and everyone of these people, as they arrive, when I collect their tickets, and then board them on their duck.

We are one big happy family here and miss each other terribly. So after our ducks pass all their inspections, we are all looking forward to coming back and continuing this amazing tour which has been one of Seattle's best attractions for years.

Please can you make this happen so that other people can share our amazing City Tour for many years to come.

			<p>Yours faithfully</p> <p>Lisa Miller Employee at Ride the Ducks</p>
	Paul Ishii, Mayflower Park Hotel	Mail	<p>Dear Governor Inslee:</p> <p>I am writing to voice my support for the return of Ride the Ducks of Seattle this fall, once necessary safety inspections have been completed.</p> <p>Getting the Duck vehicles back on the road and in the water provides many economic and cultural benefits to our beautiful city:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride the Ducks generates 130 well-paying jobs that support our local economy. Right now, the company is doing everything it can to preserve its employees' livelihood, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability.</li> <li>• For 19 years, more than three million people have enjoyed a unique Seattle experience on a Duck. Ride the Ducks is an institution, one of the top attractions for tourists and area residents, and a key reason to return - and buy more goods and services.</li> <li>• Ride the Ducks also creates a multiplier effect for our local tourism industry by giving riders a firsthand look at local businesses on its route and serving as a referral source to numerous other attractions. Visit Seattle, for one, calls on the organization monthly to donate tickets for familiarization tours promoting our great city.</li> <li>• The company gives back to the community by donating to thousands of local charities. In the last four years alone, Ride the Ducks has donated nearly \$100,000 in free tickets and charters to organizations across the region. Working with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Ride the Ducks has welcomed seriously ill children and their families on special tours every year in addition to giving monetary donations. And thousands of community members have been touched by its Random Ducks of Kindness campaign.</li> </ul> <p>Keeping Ride the Ducks off the road after it has met rigorous safety inspections and made reasonable changes to its route and operations would be unjust. Many transportation companies experience accidents and other events that result in inspections, but few are forced to cease business operations entirely during such periods. As a member of Seattle's business community, I can attest that it would send a chilling message to other small businesses in our city.</p>

			<p>For these reasons and many others, it is my hope and expectation that you will also extend your support for Ride the Ducks' return to service, once transportation investigators put their stamp of approval on its vehicles.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing Ducks passengers quacking their way down our streets and waterways soon.</p> <p>Best, Paul Ishii General Manager</p>
	Kristen Kendall	E-mail	<p>Date: 10 November 2015</p> <p>Honorable Jay Inslee Governor of Washington State</p> <p>Charles Knutson Transportation and Land Use Senior Policy Advisor</p> <p>Dear Governor Inslee and Mr. Knutson,</p> <p>My name is Kristen Kendall, I am a student at the University of Washington and have been a member of the Ride the Ducks family for the past three and a half years. After the devastating accident that occurred in September, I was laid off. However, I along with many of my coworkers, are ready to get back to the work we love, making people smile and showing off our beautiful home.</p> <p>I don't think I need to tell you how important tourism is to the state of Washington, bringing in billions of dollars of visitor spending across the state, so instead I will tell you about myself. In the years that I have worked there, RTD has been unconditionally supportive of my school endeavors. This included giving me 3 months off to attend a study abroad in Peru, an extremely flexible school schedule on very short notice and the ability to choose my own hours in the off season. Finding a job at RTD has been the greatest blessing I could have ever received. It truly is a students dream to find a place to work that is so willing to work with you while you continue your education and to know that everyone is right behind you, cheering in your corner. After being laid off, I applied for unemployment benefits but was denied because, even though I can work 40 hours a week, I cannot do it within the state required time frame of Monday- Friday, from 8pm- 5pm. Finding work while being a student is not easy either. While I have some money in savings, that money is about to run out and I will have to find another way to pay bills until I have a source of</p>



			<p>income again.</p> <p>Every employee at RTD is a hard worker and knows the importance of the public's opinion on our operation, we want nothing more than to be able to return to work and start to rebuild the reputation Ride the Ducks of Seattle has cherished for the past 18 years and I hope that will soon have that opportunity.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kristen Kendall Sales and Marketing Coordinator Ride the Ducks of Seattle</p>
	Michael Hubert	E-mail	<p>Charles, please forward this message the Governor. Thank you, Michael</p> <p>Governor Jay Inslee,</p> <p>The accident that happened on September 24th with Ride the Ducks of Seattle is of great sadness to everyone. Our prayers go out to the families that were effected by this tragedy. I'm writing you today to express my concern with the expedience or lack there of your office is showing to the Ride the Ducks company, but more importantly to the 130 employees that are out of work during this time. These 130 people of Seattle have families that are under tremendous stress not knowing when their next paycheck will come in. Many of them I'm sure are having to find other means and methods to keep their financial responsibilities in check.</p> <p>This is where I ask you to do everything in your power to put these people back to work. The Ride the Duck's accident was not a good day for the company. But accident's do happen. Investigations need to take place to prevent this from happening again. The Ride the Ducks is very important to the community. They bring happiness and joy to tourist and residents year around.</p> <p>Please do all you can to help move this issue forward and let's get these families back on track prior to this holiday season.</p> <p>Best Regards,</p> <p>Michael Hubert</p>

	Lizabeth Kelly Lyles	E-mail	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I understand it will take almost a year for the full report and determination to come in on the tragic Aurora bridge accident (I teach in the college community, so stopped by the North campus to show support a few days later). But I would guess most “court of public opinion” will prevail (in the interim) on the side of the Ducks. A mechanical failure of catastrophic proportions is horrific, but from the sound of it the Ducks had a relatively clean record of safety (and responsible local owners) prior to that sad day, and they immediately took steps to “do the right thing” complying immediately.</p> <p>I have had a chauffeur’s license in the past, and drive extensively every day, the Aurora bridge has ALWAYS concerned me, now more than ever. But don’t ‘throw the baby out with the bathwater’ (horrible phrase), they haven’t banned Greyhound buses when one of them has an accident, and drivers are allowed back on the road after deadly collisions. So if the findings don’t show any major negligence, &amp; the Ducks are complying with state and Federal laws, especially in light of their making some changes ensuring further safety precautions (better routes, a 2nd person doing the “antics” vs the driver). They are an important part of Seattle’s tourist industry and add to the Fremont “flavour”. The Ducks are fun, I always recommend it to out-of-town friends, and have loved personally riding them once a year when they generously donate 2 or 3 to a fund-raiser for the the Fremont Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration, Sincerely yours,</p> <p>Lizabeth Kelly Lyles</p>
	Randal Nelson	E-mail	<p>To whom it may concern</p> <p>My name is Randal Nelson and I would like to share a few things that I am very passionate about.</p> <p>In 1978 I married my high school sweetheart, she is the love of my life and I have been married to her every since. In 1983 our son was born and he now has a family of his own. I am a grandfather and I love it.</p> <p>The profession that I chose to support my family lasted almost three decades. The last time the economy took a turn for the low end, I needed to work. So I turned to my wife and said "find my next job". Within a few days, I was auditioning for a company called Ride the Ducks of Seattle. Since the last profession I was in was all about construction, being a tour guide/captain would be a 180 degree turn for me. Mostly all I've every known was being a carpenter. To be an entertainer for Ride the Ducks of Seattle, I would have to study very hard and put everything else on hold. I would have to concentrate, focus, pass all the tests and try to become the best I could every be at something I knew nothing about.</p>

			<p>I have trusted my wife with her choice and I have been ultra happy, as a captain, from when I started early in 2009 until the tragic accident that occurred on the Aurora bridge in Seattle involving the Duck and the tour bus. I am not only a passionate person, I am a literal person. When I heard that the victims of the crash were in our thoughts and prayers I got down on my knees and very passionately prayed for those that had suffered.</p> <p>At the risk of sounding insensitive, I am asking for the opportunity to return to the job I fell in love with. When I was working as a captain for Ride the Ducks of Seattle, I conducted tours for up to 5 times a day, 90 minutes each. Showing people from all over the world my city of Seattle. With my stage name of Captain Clem Chowder, I provided an experience where I told jokes, played music, gave information and history, but the cherry on top was to drive that amphibious vehicle into Lake Union. took deep personal joy at watching the people come alive when we entered the water.</p> <p>I have learned that if we are allowed to resume, we will not be using the Aurora Bridge as part of our tour out of respect. Also we will not operate alone, but as a two person team (one driver and one narrator). I believe that this is a wise choice. I am very excited at the mere possibility of being able to entertain again.</p> <p>Please make this a reality for me and my family, who has given me endless support. I love this job, I miss this job, I need this job and this job needs me.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Randal Nelson aka Captain Clem Chowder</p>
	Craig Clemo	E-mail	<p>Dear Governor Inslee, and Senior Policy Advisor Knutson,</p> <p>I am taking the time to write to you to ask that you consider allowing Ride the Ducks of Seattle to return to business.</p> <p>Ride the Ducks of Seattle is an icon of the Seattle Tourism industry, and the tour is synonymous with having a good time, and an all-encompassing method of seeing, and experiencing the city of Seattle in all its glory, both from land, and water, in a 90 minute tour.</p> <p>I moved to Seattle from Australia in 2006, and now consider Seattle my home. Seattle is a city full of charm, wonder, and has some of the most amazing geography, and ethnic diversity that I have encountered in the world. That charm includes the Ride the Ducks of Seattle tours. Pike</p>

			<p>Place Market, Pioneer Square, the Space Needle, EMP, MOHAI, Pacific Science Centre, not to mention the scenery, Mt Rainier, the lakes, there's just so much to see, and do, that even after nearly 9 years, I'm still getting to know the area. Tourists don't generally have the luxury of such extended time frames. They're here for a few short days, sometimes only hours. They, like I once was, are here to experience what Seattle has to offer, and to make memories. Some of my fondest, are of discovering what Seattle had to offer, from aboard a Duck. The views, the sights, sounds, the trivia and history shared by the Captain during the tour. These are the things I, and many others, before, and after me, have taken away.</p> <p>What better way to showcase the city, than by a tour that offers the opportunity to see so much of the city, and its environs, from land AND from water?</p> <p>I admit I'm biased, as I am also an employee of Ride the Ducks of Seattle, therefore I, along with my co-workers, rely on this businesses ability to operate for our livelihoods. If I set aside that bias, as a once new-arrival, and tourist, and now inhabitant of the area, and as such an advocate of the city, when I have friends or family visiting from overseas, or meet people, who ask what the best way to see the city is, each and every time, I've recommended the Ride the Ducks of Seattle tour.</p> <p>It is with your support, and consideration, that I ask you to let this company return to business, aside from the livelihood of its employees, this company is also a part of the Seattle economy, and vibe.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration,</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>Craig Clemo</p>
	Richard Tanner	E-mail	<p>Mr. Knutson:</p> <p>My name is Richard Tanner and I have been employed by Ride The Ducks of Seattle since 2006. I am compelled to write to you and explain how the closure of Ride The Ducks is effecting my life. I do not dispute the importance of a complete and accurate investigation following the tragic crash involving one of our tour vehicles. No one wants to find the answers to what went wrong more than myself and my fellow employees. I am sure that I can speak for the majority of my coworkers in saying that we will do anything in our power to prevent anything like this from happening again.</p> <p>This being said, I am asking that those involved with the investigation be mindful that any unnecessary delays are causing dozens of really amazing RTD employees to take drastic measures and search for other jobs. I am one of many that don't want to leave the company to find other</p>

			<p>employment. Ride The Ducks of Seattle have been a fantastic company to work for, and I hope to get back to work as soon as possible.</p> <p>Any, and all action that you take to bring the investigation to closure will be appreciated.</p> <p>Respectfully and Sincerely, Richard Tanner</p>
	Sandy Kemper	E-mail	<p>Dear Mr. Inslee</p> <p>I am writing this letter in support of the Ride the Ducks in Seattle. I know we are all touched and saddened by this unfortunate accident that occurred recently on the Aurora Bridge.</p> <p>My understanding is that there is a complete inspection of all of the duck vehicles occurring right now and they will not return to service until they are 100% safe. The fact that they will add a second staff member to every tour is reassuring to me.</p> <p>Accidents due occur in airplanes, buses, boats, and cars. So as a society we evaluate the situation from all angles. We review and restructure the safety and the compliance of these companies involved. And then with new guidelines in place we continue to use these vehicles/companies. In my opinion Ride the Ducks and the President. Brian Tracey. Have made every effort to do so.</p> <p>On another note Ride the Ducks has contributed to Seattle extensively over the last 19 years through tourism as well as supporting local charities. I happen to be the director of one such charity, Smiles Forever. As well as donating tickets for our annual auctions in the past. Brian Tracey has also been the master of ceremonies at annual fundraising events for us.</p> <p>Ride the ducks also employs over 100 people in Seattle are and is continuing to pay them through this investigation.</p> <p>This is a heart-breaking story for all involved but dosing the ducks I feel is not the solution.</p> <p>Sandy Kemper Director of Smiles Forever</p>
	Katie Caswell	E-mail	<p>Letter in support for Ride the Duck saved as attachment in the Notes tab.</p> <p>Good morning Governor Jay Inslee, Logistics LLC would like to express our support for Seattle's Ride the Ducks Tour to return to Seattle's streets. We are a Destination Management Company in Seattle and have a very strong partnership with this company. We are certain that once investigators are done performing their stem-to-stern inspection of the Ducks you will be convinced that this is the best decision for Seattle's local tourism industry, economy and culture.</p> <p>I have attached a letter to this email for your consideration and review.</p>

Thank you so much for your time and support.

Katie

Katie Caswell  
Sales and Operations Manager

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Dear Governor Inslee:

As an owner operator of a Destination Management Company in Seattle, Washington I am writing to voice my support for the return of Ride the Ducks of Seattle this fall, once necessary safety inspections have been completed.

Getting the Duck vehicles back on the road and in the water provides many economic and cultural benefits to our beautiful city and for my business:

- Ride the Ducks generates 130 well-paying jobs that support our local economy. Right now, the company is doing everything it can to preserve its employees' livelihood, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability.
- For 19 years, more than three million people have enjoyed the unique Seattle experience from on a Duck. Ride the Ducks is an institution, one of the top attractions for tourists and area residents and a key reason to return – and buy more goods and services – time and again.
- Ride the Ducks also creates a multiplier effect for our local tourism industry by giving riders a firsthand look at local businesses on its route and serving as a referral source to numerous other attractions.
- The company gives back to the community by donating to thousands of local charities. In the last four years alone, Ride the Ducks has donated nearly \$100,000 in free tickets and charters to organizations across the region. Working with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Ride the Ducks has welcomed seriously ill children and their families on special tours every year in addition to giving monetary donations. And thousands of community members have been touched by its Random Ducks of Kindness campaign.

Keeping Ride the Ducks off the road after it has met rigorous safety inspections and made reasonable changes to its route and operations would be unjust. As a member of Seattle's business community, I can attest that it would send a chilling message to other small businesses in our city.

			<p>For these reasons and many others, it is my hope and expectation that you will also extend your support for Ride the Ducks' return to service, once transportation investigators put their stamp of approval on its vehicles.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing Ducks passengers quacking their way down our streets and waterways soon.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Toni Walker President/Owner Logistics LLC</p>
	Dan Ronan	E-mail	<p>Letter in support of Ride the Ducks saved as attachment under the Notes tab.</p> <p>Dear Mr. Knutson and Members of the State of Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission:</p> <p>Please see the attached letter to Governor Jay Inslee from Peter J. Pantuso, the President and CEO of the American Bus Association. ABA is supporting Ride the Ducks Seattle as it seeks to resume operations. The letter was sent today by FedEx to Governor Inslee's office in Olympia.</p> <p>Feel free to contact Peter at <a href="mailto:ppantuso@buses.org">ppantuso@buses.org</a> or 202-218-7229 or me at the numbers and email below if you have further questions.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Dan Ronan Senior Director of Communications and Media American Bus Association - Washington D.C.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Dear Governor Inslee:</p> <p>As President and CEO of the American Bus Association in Washington, D.C. I am writing you to show our association's support for Ride the Ducks of Seattle as it seeks to return to business later this year, once the safety inspections are completed. Ride the Ducks of Seattle has been a member in good standing of ABA for more than ten years. It is an excellent family owned and operated business, and I know its leadership well. Brian Tracey and his daughter Mikie Tracey Coffman have deep ties to the Seattle community, and Mikie is currently a member of ABA's Board of Directors.</p>

ABA and all of our nearly four-thousand members place safety as their highest priority, and the September accident was just that, an accident. In my conversations with Brian and Mikie, I know Ride the Ducks of Seattle is working diligently with city, state and federal officials to find the cause and make sure it never happens again. As you may recall, in the hours after the accident the company made the decision to suspend service to show its respect and concern for the victims and their families.

For everyone involved, this was an unfortunate accident and as always is the case, when the final report is written and the inspections completed, Ride the Ducks Seattle, and the industry will be even safer.

Ride the Ducks of Seattle is an important component of the region's tourism community, and it has provided many cultural and economic benefits to Seattle and the State of Washington.

- More than 130 employees depend on Ride the Ducks Seattle for well-paying jobs that are important to those families and the community. Since the accident, the company is doing all it can to protect and preserve these jobs. However, it must resume operations soon if it is to remain viable over the long-term.

- During its 19 plus years of operation, more than three-million people have enjoyed the unique Seattle experience from on a Duck. That's more than 160,000 rides a year. Ride the

Ducks is a Seattle institution, and it's one of the top attractions for tourists and area residents. They have a loyal base of customers who enjoy the experience time and time again.

- Ride the Ducks of Seattle generates business for other tourist attractions. It creates a multiplier effect for the Seattle tourism industry by giving riders a firsthand look at local businesses on its route and serving as a referral source to numerous other attractions. Ride the Ducks Seattle also does business with area companies, buying fuel for its vehicles, and other supplies.

- Ride the Ducks Seattle is a great corporate citizen of Seattle and the State of Washington. It's a company that everyone is proud of and wants to do business with again. It always is giving back to the community by donating to local charities and being engaged. In the last four years alone, Ride the Ducks has donated nearly \$100,000 in free tickets and charters to organizations across the region. Working with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Ride the Ducks of Seattle has welcomed seriously ill children and their families on special tours every year in addition to giving monetary donations. Thousands of community members have been touched by its Random Ducks



			<p>of Kindness campaign.</p> <p>As someone who has been in the motorcoach, travel and tourism industry for many years and traveled the country talking to leaders of other cities, it is my belief that many cities would be proud to have a company like Ride the Ducks Seattle operating in their community. Its leadership is trustworthy and ethical, and they have shown for more than 19 years they want to provide a great experience at a fair price and be good citizens. Seattle is their home.</p> <p>Ride the Ducks of Seattle has gone far beyond what most transportation companies would do in the days and weeks after an accident to prove to inspectors and the public it is a safe, well-run operation. Keeping Ride the Ducks off the road after it has met rigorous safety inspections and made reasonable changes to its routes and operations would be unjust. It would also send a chilling message to every small and medium size business in Seattle that has an accident of any magnitude.</p> <p>For these reasons and many others, it is my hope and expectation that you will also extend your support for Ride the Ducks' return to service once transportation investigators put their stamp of approval on its vehicles. Please feel free to contact me personally at 202-218-7229 or ppantuso@buses.org if you or any members of your staff have questions.</p> <p>Sincerely, Peter J. Pantuso President/CEO American Bus Association Washington D.C.</p>
	Angela Shen	E-mail	<p>Dear Charles,</p> <p>It's June 1st, 2007 and I have just launched my brand new business, Savor Seattle Food Tours. Each day, I led tours myself through Pike Place Market, showing off the best in Seattle's food culture in the heart of Seattle. What motivated me each day, was the hope that someday, we could stand shoulder to shoulder with the best in hospitality and tourism in Seattle, the beloved Ride the Ducks.</p> <p>8 ½ years later, I can tell you that we wouldn't be where we are today without the Ducks. We were fortunate to follow in their footsteps. They led by example, showcasing the best highlights in Seattle and inspired visitors and locals alike to kindle a love for our beloved city. Not only are they experts in their field and admired by all in the tourism industry, but they support and partner with other small businesses. Through their partnership, we have been able to grow ours and show off more of Seattle's beauty and bounty together.</p> <p>I can't imagine Seattle without Ride the Ducks. Just like the Space Needle and the Pike Place</p>

			<p>Market itself, they are part of the fabric of the visitor experience. It is indisputable that their positive impact on the economy is valuable, particularly in light of a lack of state funding for tourism. It comes down to the private sector's heavy hitters to shoulder the load to continue to drive tourism, and Ride the Ducks is indisputably one of them.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing the Ducks back on the road, as I know their top priority is the safety of passengers and others with whom they share the street.</p> <p>Best, Angela</p> <p>Angela Shen Savor Seattle Food Tours</p>
	Sean & Ann Bulloch	E-mail	<p>Dear Governor Inslee,</p> <p>My husband and I would like to take a few moments of your time to express our support for Ride the Ducks of Seattle. Our family looks forward to taking a Ride the Ducks tour every time we are in Seattle. Yes, that's right I quack my way through downtown every year. It is a truly Seattle experience and is always enjoyable, especially in the summer. Whenever we hear that friends or family are taking a trip to Seattle we tell them that Ride the Ducks is a must see/do. We'd love to see our favorite attraction back on the road and water soon.</p> <p>Regards, Sean &amp; Ann Bulloch</p>
	Grant Macdonald	E-mail	<p>Governor Jay Enslee:</p> <p>I want to voice my support for Ride the Ducks and for owner Mr. Brian Tracey in the hopes that we can get them back on the roads of Seattle.</p> <p>As a small business owner myself and an acquaintance of Mr. Tracey I can attest to his character and the safety conscious way he operates his business. We have often shared stories of our challenges and difficulties running our small businesses and since we share the unique similarity of being in the marine industry the issue of safety has always been at the fore front of our discussions. As much as we try to prevent and avoid incidents such as what occurred with Ride the Ducks "bad things happen to good people" sometimes and it pains me to see Mr. Tracey's business and character being maligned in the press as it has been recently.</p>

			<p>The Ride the Ducks operation is such an integral part of the City of Seattle, a provider of good jobs, and supporter of numerous charities it would be a shame to see them denied the ability operate again in our lovely city.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Grant Macdonald, President/Owner Yacht Services</p>
	Shelly Langness	E-mail	<p>Dear Governor Inslee,</p> <p>This letter is to express my support for Ride the Ducks of Seattle. This tourist attraction has been a favorite for so many people for a long time. We live an hour from Seattle and have numerous friends who travel to the city for the sole reason of enjoying Ride the Ducks. Obviously while there, they are spending their hard earned dollars shopping, dining and enjoying other tourist attractions. Certainly Ride the Ducks is bringing economic benefits to the city.</p> <p>Previous news reports indicated the smaller ducks could be back on the streets within 30 days. I understand the rigorous inspections of the stretch ducks, but am wondering when we can expect the smaller ducks to be operating again. It would be wonderful if we could once again make Ride the Ducks part of the holiday season in downtown Seattle.</p> <p>This is a company that obviously cares deeply for their employees, customers and all of Seattle. I think it would be a real shame if we don't get them back in operation very soon.</p> <p>Shelly Langness Title Officer</p> <p>Guardian Northwest Title and Escrow First American Title of Island County</p>
	Margaret Su	E-mail	<p>Governor Jay Inslee C/O Charles Knutson Transportation and Land Use, Senior Policy Advisor</p> <p>Dear Governor Inslee,</p> <p>I am writing to voice my support for the return of Ride the Ducks of Seattle this fall, once necessary safety inspections have been completed.</p>

			<p>Getting the Duck vehicles back on the road and in the water provides many economic and cultural benefits to our beautiful city. Ride the Ducks is an important part of our tourism industry. They have been a valuable colleague and partner to many of us as cultural attractions and as part of the Puget Sound Attractions Council, collaborating, sharing and leading the way in terms of our work in attracting tourists.</p> <p>For the Wing Luke Museum specifically, they have supported our Bruce Lee exhibit efforts and were a huge highlight when their staff dressed in yellow jumpsuits and rivaled the Seattle Monorail in their martial arts moves as part of our social media campaign. As they do for many other organizations, they have also donated tickets to our annual auction fundraiser, which we greatly appreciate.</p> <p>For these reasons and many others, it is my hope and expectation that Ride the Ducks will be able to return to service after it has met rigorous safety inspections and made reasonable changes to its routes and operations.</p> <p>I hope to see Ducks passengers quacking their way down our streets and waterways soon.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Margaret Su Deputy Director for Development &amp; Marketing Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience</p>
	Shelley Thiessen	E-mail	<p>Dear Mr. Knutson</p> <p>I am writing this letter in support of Ride the Ducks of Seattle to you on behalf of my company, Sun Fun Tours, based out of British Columbia. The tragedy that occurred this past September was a terrible, unforeseen accident. In fact I had a group of 36 seniors who were scheduled to go out on the next departing Duck tour that morning. They were literally sitting on the Duck when word of the accident was relayed and their trip was of course cancelled. And although I do admit I am grateful that it was not my tour group that was involved in the accident I, like everyone else is terribly saddened for the people whose lives were lost and for those who were injured that day.</p> <p>I feel this experience allows me the perspective to speak honestly and frankly when I say that despite the accident, I nor the other shareholders in my company would not hesitate to continue to include the Ride the Ducks of Seattle tour as part of our group itinerary while visiting Seattle. Since 2003 Sun Fun Tours has been bringing tour groups to Seattle and has always included Ride</p>

			<p>the Ducks in our package. Not only does this element rate very high on our customer satisfaction surveys but the tour allows people not familiar with the city to see the highlights and to hear the back story on so many of the famous landmarks that make Seattle such a great destination.</p> <p>The Ride the Ducks of Seattle franchise is a family run business as is my company. This is one of the reasons why I chose to support Ride the Ducks back in 2003 when I introduced my tour groups to their business – because of the family element. I have witnessed firsthand the care, attention to detail and level of service and commitment to their customers that often one only finds in a business where the owners are on the front lines. I've watched this company grow from a small operation back in 2003 to what it is today. This company believes in giving back to their community, to helping the less fortunate and to keeping a large staff employed with well paying jobs allowing Seattle to benefit from the economic spinoff that creates. The fact that owner Brian Tracey took immediate action on the day of the accident as well as continuing to make changes that will see Ride the Ducks safer than ever speaks volumes to his commitment to promoting Seattle as a top destination, to keeping his guests safe, and to ensuring that more than 100 people remain employed.</p> <p>I wholeheartedly support having Ride the Ducks of Seattle reinstated as soon as possible upon completion of the investigation. They are a true ambassador to the City of Seattle and a huge economic driver for the tourism industry.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Shelley Thiessen  Vice President Sun Fun Tours</p>
	David Jensen	E-mail	<p>Dear Governor Inslee and Commissioners of the Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>As the Residence Director of Pacific Northwest Ballet's Summer Course for the last 20 years, every summer I have the opportunity to introduce over 200 teenaged dancers from all over the world to our beautiful state. The students in our internationally regarded program are selected from over 2,000 advanced ballet students who audition in one of the 27 cities on our national Audition Tour. They attend our demanding program - considered among the top three in the country - for five weeks in July and August. Among the most enjoyable of my duties is planning their extracurricular activities. For most of those 20 years - since 1998 - I've made a Ride the Ducks tour one of those optional activities, and it has been one of our most popular ever since. Our program is renowned for providing a positive experience for our students beyond the ballet studio, and in addition to our outstanding ballet training, many of our students and their parents cite this as a reason for returning to our program over other options such as Miami City Ballet, San Francisco</p>

			<p>Ballet, Boston Ballet, and even the School of American Ballet in New York City. Parents coming to pick up their students at the end of the Summer Course often ask me (and their newly-expert kids) what they should see and do while they're here, and "Ride the Ducks!" is a frequent recommendation.</p> <p>Moreover, on the basis of all their positive experiences here during our beautiful, sunny summers, many of our Summer Course students over the years (and even some of their parents) have chosen to relocate to Seattle to pursue their ballet training year-round, or to work or attend college after their ballet careers have ended, adding their diverse talents and abilities to our local population. The folks at Ride the Ducks have always provided us with flexible, safe, and memorable experiences at a reasonable price. My own friends and relatives visiting the city have likewise enjoyed their Ride the Ducks tours and still talk about them years later. I look forward to the return of this unique attraction to our city's streets and Lake Union. While the recent accident on the Aurora Bridge was undeniably a tragedy, it should not mean the end of Ride the Ducks. Taxis, charter buses, and even school buses have all been involved in deadly accidents in the city. Ride the Ducks has already committed to several changes to improve its already stellar safety record, and with those changes I firmly believe they should be allowed to resume business as soon as possible. I, for one, have every intention of giving them my vote of confidence by once again including them on our activities schedule and, as I like to do every year, by riding along with my students.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider my input. Please act without delay to return our Ducks to activity.</p> <p>David Jensen Summer Residence Director Pacific Northwest Ballet School</p>
	Steve Vissotzky, Grand Hyatt Seattle	Mail	<p>Dear Governor Inslee:</p> <p>Steve Vissotzky Managing Director</p> <p>I am writing to voice my support for the return of Ride the Ducks of Seattle this fall, once necessary safety inspections have been completed.</p> <p>Getting the Duck vehicles back on the road and in the water provides many economic and cultural benefits to our beautiful city:</p>

- Ride the Ducks generates 130 well-paying jobs that support our local economy. Right now, the company is doing everything it can to preserve its employees' livelihood, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability.
- For 19 years, more than three million people have enjoyed a unique Seattle experience on a Duck. Ride the Ducks is an institution, one of the top attractions for tourists and area residents, and a key reason to return - and buy more goods and services.
- Ride the Ducks also creates a multiplier effect for our local tourism industry by giving riders firsthand look at local businesses on its route and serving as a referral source to numerous other attractions. Visit Seattle, for one, calls on the organization monthly to donate tickets for familiarization tours promoting our great city.
- The company gives back to the community by donating to thousands of local charities. In the last four years alone, Ride the Ducks has donated nearly \$100,000 in free tickets and charters to organizations across the region. Working with the Starlight Children's Foundation, Ride the Ducks has welcomed seriously ill children and their families on special tours every year in addition to giving monetary donations. And thousands of community members have been touched by its Random Ducks of Kindness campaign.

Steve Vissotzky  
Managing Director

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Keeping Ride the Ducks off the road after it has met rigorous safety inspections and made reasonable changes to its route and operations would be unjust. Many transportation companies experience accidents and other events that result in inspections, but few are forced to cease business operations entirely during such periods. As a member of Seattle's business community, I can attest that it would send a chilling message to other small businesses in our city.

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

I look forward to seeing Ducks passengers quacking their way down our streets and waterways soon.

Best,

			<p>Steve Vissotzky  Managing Director  Grand Hyatt Seattle  Hyatt Olive 8</p>
	Megan Ching	E-mail	<p>Dear Governor Jay Inslee,</p> <p>I am writing this letter to show our support for Ride the Ducks of Seattle. We hope that once the inspection and investigation are completed, you will allow the Ducks to go back into service.</p> <p>We have worked closely with the Ducks for many years and hope to continue to partner with them for years to come. Ride the Ducks of Seattle is a valuable partner in the tourism industry – they provide a fun and unique view of the city to thousands of tourists and locals each year.</p> <p>At the Seattle Center Monorail, we have worked closely with Ride the Ducks of Seattle to encourage visitors to visit our attractions. We are both members of the Washington Tourism Alliance, Puget Sound Attractions Council and the Downtown Seattle Association – in all three of these organizations, members of Ride the Ducks of Seattle have volunteered to take active roles in committees and help improve tourism marketing efforts in Seattle. Members of Ride the Ducks of Seattle have consistently offered their time, energy and knowledge of the tourism industry in Washington to help further efforts to grow tourism in our state. They can always be counted on to step up and help.</p> <p>For the past four years, we have partnered with Ride the Ducks of Seattle to create and print holiday marketing materials that are distributed throughout Seattle. Ride the Ducks of Seattle has always gone above and beyond to promote Seattle – their Captains share positive information about Seattle and its attractions as they travel through the city – they are wonderful ambassadors for our city.</p> <p>Additionally, Ride the Ducks of Seattle has always generously donated tickets to our annual “Ride into the Holidays” Even – this is an event that we host that benefits Treehouse foster children and their families every year. The event takes place on the day after Thanksgiving and provides 150 local foster children and their families with the opportunity to have a VIP holiday experience – we provide entertainment and a special ride on the Seattle Center Monorail to Westlake Center Station for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. During our even we give away raffle prizes; Ride the Ducks of Seattle has always provided us with generous donations of admission tickets to their attraction for our guests.</p> <p>We understand that the complete inspection of the Ducks is necessary to ensure safety. We have</p>



			<p>also heard about the changes being made to the operations to ensure that safety concerns are addressed. Once the inspections are complete, we sincerely hope that you will allow the Ducks to go back into service. Ride the Ducks of Seattle is a valued partner in the tourism industry.</p> <p>Thank you, Megan Ching Director of Marketing and Sales Seattle Monorail Services</p>
	Eugene Wasserman	E-mail	<p>Dear Commission:</p> <p>Our membership would like to see the Ride the Duck vehicles back on the road / water in our North Seattle Industrial area. They provide good jobs for local captains / drivers and run a very necessary operation. They are housed here, and they give many of their customers the first chance to see us by water.</p> <p>It is a big need of our Maritime Industrial businesses on the State of Washington to raise awareness that Washington works the waterfront – including Lake Union!</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Eugene Wasserman President, North Seattle Industrial Association</p>
	Yvonna Camire	E-mail	<p>To: Jay Inslee, Washington State Governor via Charles Knutson, Transportation and Land Use Senior Policy Advisor</p> <p>I have both as part of my business (transporting Canadian seniors on tours) and on a personal level had the pleasure of 'Riding a Duck'. I do hope that this valuable service will be restored to the Seattle area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride the Ducks generates 130 well-paying jobs that support its local economy. Right now, the company is doing everything it can to preserve its employees' livelihood, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability.</li> <li>• For 19 years, more than three million people have enjoyed the unique Seattle experience from a Duck.</li> </ul> <p>Ride the Ducks is an institution, one of the top attractions for tourists and area residents and a key reason to return –</p>

			<p>and buy more goods and services – time and again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride the Ducks also creates a multiplier effect for the local tourism industry by giving riders a firsthand look at local businesses on its route and serving as a referral source to numerous other attractions.</li> <li>• The company gives back to the community by donating to thousands of local charities. In the last four years alone, Ride the Ducks has donated nearly \$100,000 in free tickets and charters to organizations across the region. Working with the Starlight Children’s Foundation, Ride the Ducks has welcomed seriously ill children and their families on special tours every year in addition to giving monetary donations. And thousands of community members have been touched by its Random Ducks of Kindness campaign.</li> </ul> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Yvonna Camire   Owner &amp; CEO Paramount Travel Inc</p>
	Charles W. Ledford	E-mail	<p>Greetings! I have been a citizen residing in the Puget Sound since 1988 and currently live in Snohomish County (Bothell). I implore you to consider doing everything in your power to ensure the Ride The Ducks company remains an iconic business in Seattle. The day my family first went a tour, I had to work (for the railroad) so I could not participate, but I would really like the chance to go sometime in the near future. I am used to seeing them frequently during my commute(s) and always see that passengers have smiles on their faces and hear the discussion over the loudspeaker and think to myself, “I wish I were there right now!”. In light of the fateful afternoon a few months ago, the company has had to prove their worthiness as a legitimate and safe business to government entities as well as the general public, of which I happen to be a member. After doing my own research and reading about the response, community concerns, the loss of jobs, etc., I feel that Ride the Ducks deserves a second chance to get get it right. I feel that they have the right people in place to change whatever allowed this horrible incident to happen. I just hope that I will someday have the chance to take a ride myself because I know my family had a wonderful and memorable time when they went. Please consider every possible avenue to allow them to remain an iconic Seattle business.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Charles W. Ledford</p>

	Tom Norwalk, Visit Seattle	Mail	<p>December 18, 2015</p> <p>Chairman David W. Danner Ms. Anne Rendahl Mr. Philip Jones Washington Unities and Transportation Commission</p> <p>I am writing to voice my strong support - and the support of Seattle's tourism industry - in allowing Ride the Ducks to return to operation pending Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission compliance, without waiting for the City of Seattle to enact additional stipulations.</p> <p>Considering the Ride the Ducks' incredible record of operation over 19 years and hosting some three million passengers, it would be inappropriate to keep the company from providing its services as it is willing to implement and comply with new safety and operational requirements. These are requirements proposed by the state and generally operational issues suggested by the City of Seattle.</p> <p>Many transportation companies experience accidents and other events that result in inspections, but few are forced to cease business operations entirely during such periods. As a member of Seattle's business community, I can attest it sends a chilling message to other small businesses in our city. Seattle tour and transportation companies, which are essential to visitor mobility, employ Seattleites and serve our community in myriad other ways.</p> <p>Ride the Ducks has been, and remains, a trusted business partner of many city attractions, hotels and Visit Seattle, providing tours, packaging and consistently offering its staff and resources abroad in our collective destination marketing efforts. That translates to economic impact and job growth for the City of Seattle.</p> <p>Moreover, Ride the Ducks generates 130 well-paying jobs that support our local economy. Right now, the company is doing everything it can to preserve its employees' livelihood, but must resume operations soon to ensure its long-term viability.</p> <p>For these reasons and many others, it is my hope and expectation that you will also extend your support for Ride the Ducks' return to service, once transportation investigators put their stamp of approval on its vehicles.</p> <p>Sincerely, Tom Norwalk</p>
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