

**Docket No. TS-180677 - Vol. II**

**In re Application of Backcountry Travels LLC**

**April 22, 2019**



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In re Application of ) DOCKET NO. TS-180677

BACKCOUNTRY TRAVELS LLC )

For a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate Vessels in Furnishing Passenger Ferry Service )

PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING, VOLUME II Pages 11 - 61 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANDREW O'CONNELL

April 22, 2019 9:02 a.m. 104 West Woodin Avenue Chelan, Washington

REPORTED BY: DANI WHITE, CCR NO. 3352

1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Monday, April 22, 2019, at 9:02 a.m., at 104 West Woodin Avenue, Chelan, Washington, the public comment hearing was taken before Dani White, Certified Court Reporter. The following proceedings took place:

7 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Good morning. Let's be on the record for Docket TS-180677 for the Utilities and Transportation Commission regarding the application by Backcountry Travels LLC for a commercial ferry certificate.

12 My name is Andrew O'Connell, I'm an administrative law judge with the Utilities and Transportation Commission. You might hear in my voice that I've got something, some sort of a cold, so I'm going to keep my distance from this microphone and this podium for all of your benefit. I think you can probably -- you parents out there can understand that sometimes when your little one gets sick you don't have a choice.

20 So thank you for being here this morning. I know that I'm seeing that there's quite a bit of interest in this case and I understand that and appreciate all of your time coming here this morning.

24 So in this case, the UTC is to determine whether the public convenience and necessity requires the

1 APPEARANCES:

2 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: 3 MR. ANDREW O'CONNELL 4 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 5 1300 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest 6 Olympia, Washington 98504 7 360.664.1160

8 FOR COMMISSION STAFF:

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16 FOR BACKCOUNTRY TRAVELS LLC:

17 MR. MATTHEW S. HITCHCOCK 18 MR. JORDAN MILLER 19 Jeffers, Danielson, Sonn & Alyward, P.S. 20 Attorneys at Law 21 2600 Chester Kimm Road 22 P.O. Box 1688 23 Wenatchee, Washington 98807 24 509.662.3685 25 matthewh@jdsalaw.com jmiller@jdsalaw.com

1 operation of Backcountry Travels LLC as another ferry 2 on Lake Chelan. Our role -- well, we're here this 3 morning for a public comment hearing to listen to you 4 and your opinions on whether that certificate should be 5 granted. So my role today and our role is to listen to 6 you. It's not really a time for dialogue from me to 7 you.

8 If you have questions about the case or are 9 interested to find out more about it, you can find 10 information on the Commission's website or you can 11 also -- I will refer you to the parties, including 12 Commission Staff who is here, Mr. Greg Hammond and 13 Mr. Mike Young who are in the back of the room. Greg, 14 if you could raise your hand, they can help provide 15 answers to questions you might have about the case. 16 Also, Mr. Jeff Roberson up here in front and also from 17 I believe Backcountry Travels and their representatives 18 are here as well if you have questions.

19 So I want to talk about how we are going to go 20 about this public comment hearing. I'm going to call 21 you up one by one to the podium and allow you or invite 22 you to give your comments, and I will be taking notes. 23 We also have a court reporter here who will be 24 recording everything that's said today at this hearing. 25 It will be part of the record in this case, and the

1 benefit there is I don't have to try and keep up with  
 2 everything that you say and take notes on it.  
 3 So we will have a full record of what you do say  
 4 so don't be worried that I might not be able to catch  
 5 up with everything. But as a request, knowing that I  
 6 have trouble with this myself, please speak slowly and  
 7 deliberately so that the court reporter can keep up  
 8 with what you're saying. And if I interrupt you to ask  
 9 you to please slow down, please understand that it's  
 10 for the benefit of being able to record everything that  
 11 you say.  
 12 So I have been given a sign-up sheet by  
 13 Mr. Roberts, and I intend to go down that list calling  
 14 everyone up one at a time. So this is a formal  
 15 proceeding so the testimony that you give, it will be  
 16 under oath. In a moment, I'm going to ask that anyone  
 17 who intends to speak please stand and I will swear you  
 18 in.  
 19 And as far as time limits, we have at most three  
 20 hours today to hear from all of you. I'd like -- I  
 21 don't want to put any time limits on anyone making  
 22 comments, but I would like to ask that you be  
 23 considerate of the others. And if there is someone who  
 24 said something that you agree with, you can simply just  
 25 say, you know, That person has the same view that I

1 into great detail again.  
 2 Are there any other questions on how we're going  
 3 to proceed today?  
 4 Okay. Then I'd like to ask that everyone who  
 5 intends to speak today please stand and raise your  
 6 right hand.  
 7 (Members of the public were sworn in.)  
 8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Let the record reflect that  
 9 everyone responded affirmatively.  
 10 So when you come to the podium, I'd like to ask  
 11 that you please state and spell your name for the court  
 12 reporter's benefit, and if you're representing someone  
 13 other than yourself, please tell us that.  
 14 Okay. I'm going to sit down and our first speaker  
 15 will be Mr. Tom Courtney.  
 16 Thank you, Mr. Courtney, please go ahead.  
 17 MR. T. COURTNEY: Okay. I thank you for the  
 18 opportunity to testify in this case. My name is Tom  
 19 Courtney and I live in Stehekin. My experience in the  
 20 area is I've run barges and tugs on the lake for over  
 21 40 years. It's -- I'd like to go on the record as  
 22 supporting the application by Backcountry Travel LLC.  
 23 I believe that Stehekin needs more diverse  
 24 transportation choices, especially since we lost the  
 25 Airways because now we're down to one. And I also

1 have. There isn't a need for you to repeat and that  
 2 should help us make sure that everyone can have a  
 3 chance to talk.  
 4 And along with that, if you brought written  
 5 comments or if you would like to submit written  
 6 comments, please give those to Mr. Roberts who's  
 7 outside in the -- right outside the room in the front.  
 8 Written comments are very much appreciated, they become  
 9 part of the record, and what's good about it is I can  
 10 refer to it directly because it's in writing and I  
 11 don't have to worry about misremembering or not being  
 12 able to refer back to it. So if you've brought those,  
 13 I appreciate it.  
 14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Raised hand.)  
 15 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes.  
 16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If we've already submitted  
 17 a written comment, is that part of the record or do we  
 18 need to repeat that written oral now?  
 19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: You do not need to repeat  
 20 anything that you have already submitted in writing to  
 21 the Commission. We have that in the record, it will be  
 22 part of the record. If you would like to -- if you  
 23 have written comments here or you've already submitted  
 24 you could just hit the highlights when you give your  
 25 comments here at the podium. It's not necessary to go

1 believe in free enterprise. I think it's good for the  
 2 public as well as the private community and competition  
 3 I think is good, it tends to keep the prices down and  
 4 quality up. So I think these are all things I've  
 5 always believed in and I've seen them work throughout  
 6 my life. I expect it to lead to more service and  
 7 better quality.  
 8 One question I have, with the Utilities and  
 9 Transportation Commission, I'm always kind of -- a  
 10 question in my mind is you have the public convenience,  
 11 of course, and I understand the need for a continual  
 12 service, however, Stehekin, is partly a private  
 13 community and partly tourism so in a way I'd like to  
 14 say the Utilities and Transportation Commission also  
 15 seems to be regulating the tourism in the area because  
 16 of -- which affects most of the businesses in Stehekin.  
 17 So I'd like you to consider that and keep that in mind  
 18 in your decision. Thank you for the opportunity.  
 19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you, Mr. Courtney. Let me  
 20 please invite Ms. Liz Courtney.  
 21 Hi, good morning.  
 22 MS. L. COURTNEY: Good morning. Can you hear me?  
 23 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes.  
 24 MS. L. COURTNEY: Thank you, Commission, for this  
 25 hearing. And my name is Liz Courtney, another

1 Courtney, and I'd like to go on record supporting this  
2 proposal for several reasons.

3 It's already established that we need extra or  
4 additional services on this lake. It's been  
5 established by the seaplane, the charter boats that  
6 have worked on this lake in this past, and private  
7 boats that enjoy going to Stehekin. We've always  
8 needed alternatives, that's been established already.

9 Those services succeeded if they were committed,  
10 available, and were frequent, and this proposal is all  
11 about that. I see all those three things in there,  
12 commitment, availability, and frequency to and from  
13 Stehekin that will benefit Stehekin and the visitor.

14 I'm excited that this would grow the Stehekin  
15 economy. We need the support because we are a tourist  
16 town -- village. I'm especially excited that perhaps  
17 the winter business would grow. That's something we  
18 need. It's exciting because it might help families  
19 stay all year round. Stehekin needs that.

20 I like the cooperative spirit in this proposal  
21 with the present operation in that they are providing  
22 something outside of the mainstream, and it's an  
23 alternative that people will embrace and I think that's  
24 a good thing. That's all I have to say. Thank you  
25 very much.

1 lot of my thoughts as a resident, I'm going to talk  
2 more about the effect it has on my business and the  
3 guests that we see coming into the valley.

4 As people have been saying, the added service,  
5 it's not really a direct competition with the current  
6 Boat Company. The current service is designed more for  
7 day-trippers than it is for people that are spending  
8 the night in Stehekin. It's designed to take people  
9 up, let them stay for a short time, and then go back  
10 the same day. People that are spending the night are  
11 looking for a different time schedule than what is  
12 currently being offered.

13 So in the many years that I have worked in  
14 Stehekin, the number one complaint that I hear from  
15 guests for their entire Stehekin experience, not just  
16 staying at the ranch or anything, the number one  
17 complaint is the inconvenience of the boat schedule.  
18 And that's not saying anything bad about what the  
19 current Boat Company is doing, it's just designed  
20 around a different set of needs.

21 So adding a service that will take care of those  
22 guests that want to come a little bit later in the day  
23 and then head back to wherever they came from a little  
24 earlier in the day is a great advantage and would be  
25 very beneficial to anybody that is coming to stay

1 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

2 Ms. Mary Martin. And I'd like to remind everyone  
3 please spell your last name for the court reporter.  
4 Sometimes they're pretty easy but other times they're  
5 more difficult if the court reporter's unfamiliar.  
6 Thank you.

7 MS. MARTIN: Good morning. I'm Mary Martin,  
8 M-a-r-y M-a-r-t-i-n. Mr. Commissioner, you've made my  
9 point in your opening statement. You said and I quote,  
10 If your little one gets sick, you have no choice, and  
11 that's exactly what's going on at Stehekin. You have a  
12 sick child and it's a Tuesday, you're not getting out  
13 to get that child to a doctor. If it happens in the  
14 winter, you're going to have to wait until a Monday, a  
15 Wednesday, or a Friday to get that family member out to  
16 get to medical attention.

17 I think that this is a critical issue when we  
18 think about what kind of transportation we are going to  
19 provide to and from Stehekin. Thank you.

20 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

21 Ms. Bethany Gerhard.

22 MS. GERHARD: Hello. My name is Bethany Gerhard.  
23 It's G-e-r-h-a-r-d. I am a Stehekin resident and I  
24 also am the general manager of Stehekin Valley Ranch.  
25 Given the number of people here, I'm not going to say a

1 overnight.

2 And also, what is being proposed is not -- it's a  
3 small boat, it's not going to take the place of what is  
4 currently there. It's going to add an additional  
5 service that's not here. And we've seen how beneficial  
6 that can be because of the floatplane that many people  
7 have mentioned, this is a similar kind of deal offering  
8 a little bit of better options, basically, giving  
9 people a choice of how they want to travel to and from  
10 Stehekin, and I think that is very beneficial to  
11 everybody. And I'm going to cut it off there.

12 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

13 MS. GERHARD: Thank you.

14 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Mr. Earl Duda.

15 MR. DUDA: Hello. My name is Earl Duda, E-a-r-l  
16 D-u-d-a. I work for the North Cascades Lodge at  
17 Stehekin. I've been a resident for about three years  
18 now.

19 Opening up more transportation to the valley is  
20 greatly going to help. I take calls and emails every  
21 day of people asking, What is there to do, how can we  
22 get there? I answer the questions and they make their  
23 answer pretty quick because there's not a lot of  
24 transportation to get there. This is definitely going  
25 to help the valley, all of the businesses.

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1 And I wasn't going to make a comment about being a  
 2 resident but opening up so that we can take care of  
 3 ourselves. I've heard people make decisions that I  
 4 think are a little damaging to their health because  
 5 they can't get down lake. So opening that up I believe  
 6 will help outside of emergency, of course.  
 7 Everything that I've heard so far is pretty much  
 8 echoed in my sentiment and that's it.  
 9 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 10 MR. DUDA: Thank you.  
 11 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Jo Miller.  
 12 MS. MILLER: Jo Miller, M-i-l-l-e-r. Thank you  
 13 for having this hearing in Chelan. I think you can see  
 14 that it means a lot to our community to be able to  
 15 speak and not have to travel to the other side.  
 16 My first trip up Lake Chelan was on the Boat  
 17 Company in 1972. In that timeframe, I've had more and  
 18 more time and personal property up the lake, and I've  
 19 seen options for transportation other than our own boat  
 20 decrease consistently to the point when the Airways  
 21 stopped servicing the lake, for emergencies we're up a  
 22 creek without a paddle.  
 23 So I see the proposed ferry service that  
 24 Backcountry is -- would like to offer as a great  
 25 benefit for those of us who have private property up

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1 lake, for our guests, and for the community of Stehekin  
 2 to be maintained a viable, important presence in our  
 3 current society. Thank you.  
 4 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 5 Marshall Miller.  
 6 MR. M. MILLER: My first name is spelled  
 7 M-a-r-s-h-a-l-l. I can't tell you how excited I am  
 8 about the prospect of what is proposed. I first went  
 9 up lake 60 years ago, continue to try and go almost  
 10 weekly. I represent our business which has constructed  
 11 over 50 wells in Stehekin, primarily for the private  
 12 sector, one for the National Park Service.  
 13 I guess it goes without saying how important water  
 14 is. We wish to be able to offer more professional and  
 15 quick response to those people who depend on our  
 16 service and maintenance. And that has been compromised  
 17 with a lack of scheduling or a decrease in scheduling  
 18 of the commercial -- present commercial boat service.  
 19 The opportunity to support those people whose  
 20 businesses and lives and their homes would be a  
 21 tremendous benefit.  
 22 We are incapable, as many are, to travel in our  
 23 own smaller boat on a regular basis, particularly in  
 24 the wintertime and because of weather, and being able  
 25 to rely on commercial transportation would help us be

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1 more professional and equally importantly meet those  
 2 personal needs of our clients. I have -- I would --  
 3 that is all my comment regarding commercial or business  
 4 activity.  
 5 But personally, I can speak for one person who has  
 6 a written record, his name is Jeffrey Polley, spelled  
 7 P-o-l-l-e-y. He, like others, was of an age when he  
 8 could not reliably get to his midway destination, not  
 9 Stehekin, but there are numerous parties who have  
 10 private property whose maintenance and recreation  
 11 preclude older people.  
 12 The proposed boat service has offered facilities  
 13 that would enhance older people -- older people to  
 14 continue what's been a lifelong quest. I believe those  
 15 people are very important and their needs need to be  
 16 addressed. Thank you.  
 17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Mr. Miller, you talked a little  
 18 bit about your business, what is that business?  
 19 MR. M. MILLER: The business is MVM Quality  
 20 Drilling. We first constructed wells approximately  
 21 35 years ago. In addition, there are at least 50  
 22 wells, some of them being used commercially, the  
 23 bakery, for example, the school and the services  
 24 commercially have been reduced to the point that we are  
 25 either faced to travel there in a small boat to give

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1 quick response and that is not something that we can  
 2 reliably do. The commercial service that has been  
 3 offered of the size and scheduling would allow us much  
 4 better opportunity to serve the obligations that we  
 5 have created there.  
 6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you, Mr. Miller.  
 7 MR. M. MILLER: Thank you.  
 8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Malcolm Keithley, I hope I got  
 9 that right.  
 10 MR. KEITHLEY: Yes, that is correct. My name is  
 11 Malcolm Keithley, M-a-l-c-o-l-m K-e-i-t-h-l-e-y, and I  
 12 represent Lake Chelan Magazine. In the early 1800s,  
 13 there was a very bitter fight to find out what Boat  
 14 Company would get the rights to provide service on Lake  
 15 Chelan. Lake Chelan had just been discovered as a  
 16 tourism destination, also miners and prospectors were  
 17 needing transportation up and down the lake.  
 18 What was decided between the two competing boat  
 19 companies, that the decision would be made by the  
 20 result of a boat race. And I'm suggesting now that  
 21 Colter challenge the Lake Chelan Boat Company to a boat  
 22 race.  
 23 But in all seriousness, I had the opportunity last  
 24 summer to go up and interview a lot of visitors and  
 25 residents of Stehekin. All were totally in favor of

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1 this new boat service, and I just echo that sentiment.  
 2 Thank you very much.  
 3 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 4 Jim Courtney.  
 5 MR. J. COURTNEY: Yes, Jim Courtney,  
 6 C-o-u-r-t-n-e-y. I just mostly want to be on the  
 7 record in support of this. I think it's a great  
 8 proposal. I did the same thing several years ago,  
 9 applied for a permit and was denied, but it was along  
 10 similar lines, Colter's is probably better, if  
 11 anything.  
 12 I already believe that the current operation and  
 13 the new operation could work well together and really  
 14 be an asset to the whole valley, make it a lot easier  
 15 for people to come in and out of the valley. And I  
 16 have other comments but they've already been more  
 17 eloquently discussed, I believe, my brother being one  
 18 of them, so I thank you for the opportunity.  
 19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. Cliff Courtney.  
 20 MR. C. COURTNEY: See if we can get this thing  
 21 back over here.  
 22 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Sure.  
 23 MR. C. COURTNEY: Is that working for folks?  
 24 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes.  
 25 MR. C. COURTNEY: So I have about nine pages of

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1 testimony here that I'd like to cover. No, but I've  
 2 actually included most of it in writing before I  
 3 cleaned it up a little bit so I will be sending this to  
 4 Mr. Roberts here at the end of the testimony.  
 5 But really, it is an exciting time for Stehekin,  
 6 not just with this new proposal but with the transfer  
 7 that seems to be imminent of the Boat Company, all are  
 8 being proposed by people who grew up in Stehekin,  
 9 that's very important because they know the needs of  
 10 the community and of the visitors.  
 11 And we truly are a tourism-supporting town. We  
 12 can't do it without tourism, but however, tourism  
 13 cannot do it without us either. If you don't have the  
 14 services there, if you don't have the businesses  
 15 intact, then there's really no reason to come to  
 16 Stehekin unless you're just a few of the backpackers.  
 17 And so this is going to be a tremendous asset for the  
 18 community, to revitalize the community, but also it  
 19 will be a tremendous asset as the community revitalizes  
 20 to even make a more lucrative proposition to the  
 21 present carrier because they will have more people  
 22 coming to Stehekin.  
 23 An example of that is that heads in beds in the  
 24 Chelan area has increased between the last ten or  
 25 twelve years 80 to 100 percent, but yet, the visitation

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1 to Stehekin is flat. Why is that? Why are you having  
 2 thousands -- hundreds of thousands more people come to  
 3 Chelan but not go to Stehekin? That did not used to be  
 4 the case. So as we open it up, as we enhance the  
 5 service more to what people want, it will be good for  
 6 everybody. And to use a cliché, a rising tide floats  
 7 all boats, and I really believe that's the case.  
 8 But to get to my notes, which I haven't even got  
 9 to yet, this proposal offers a schedule that works for  
 10 Stehekin. Bethany talked a little bit about the  
 11 schedule that works for our clients. Definitely they  
 12 can drive over the passes, it's part of their vacation,  
 13 the very scenic passes to get to Chelan the same day  
 14 that they get to Stehekin by the schedule that Colter  
 15 is proposing, that's a wonderful thing, running again.  
 16 They can drive in the daylight hours, save some  
 17 expense of an extra hotel if they do not want to  
 18 include Chelan as part of their vacation which many do.  
 19 So the schedule works for the visitor but it works so  
 20 well for the community.  
 21 An example is with the current carrier, you have  
 22 to come out for just this one meeting. I have to come  
 23 out on Sunday and would have to go back on a Wednesday,  
 24 just right now the way the schedule is now. If it was  
 25 in the middle of the winter, I'd have to come out on a

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1 Friday and go back on a Wednesday just for this one  
 2 meeting. So if this schedule were operating, I could  
 3 have come out yesterday, still be an overnight trip,  
 4 but I could have gone back at 1 o'clock this afternoon.  
 5 So you can see how convenient that is in every aspect  
 6 for medical, for education, for recreation, for the  
 7 folks wanting to come out, whatever it is, it's a  
 8 schedule that is needed, it is necessary.  
 9 This proposal also offers daily service. Much has  
 10 been said about the Airways. The Airways since World  
 11 War II until about ten years ago was a daily service  
 12 year around, we had daily options. We haven't had a  
 13 daily option since the Airways just started skimming  
 14 the cream off the crop in the summer. It was a  
 15 year-round business for decades and so we lost that.  
 16 And then lately, we have lost the Airways. We  
 17 welcome the Airways back, we hope it comes back. We're  
 18 not planning on it because we don't see an airplane  
 19 flying. If it does, that's fantastic, another great  
 20 asset, but I doubt if it will operate in the winter.  
 21 It will still not fix the problem we have coming and  
 22 going in the winter. So this schedule, this proposal  
 23 is a great asset because they're proposing for the  
 24 first time a boat every day of the year in combination.  
 25 Even in their maintenance times, they've made sure to

1 schedule it when it's a time that the other boat is  
 2 running daily.  
 3 So visitors in Stehekin with the exception of one  
 4 day, I think Christmas, will be able to come and go to  
 5 Stehekin every day of the year and that economically --  
 6 and also as a desirable place, making Stehekin a more  
 7 desirable place to live which is great for growing our  
 8 community as well, it's a fantastic thing.  
 9 This proposal will revitalize the community like I  
 10 led off with. And something I think Earl can probably  
 11 also repeat is that currently, I was a manager of  
 12 Stehekin Landing Resort for a number of years and  
 13 currently manage Stehekin Valley Ranch, and this new  
 14 proposal will make it possible for what was Stehekin  
 15 Landing Resort, which is now North Cascades Lodge at  
 16 Stehekin, to operate in the winter.  
 17 Currently, you can't have a weekend travel. Most  
 18 people want to come on weekends, they can't do a one-  
 19 two-, or three-day winter vacation now. This new  
 20 service will enable the main business at the head of  
 21 the lake, North Cascades Lodge at Stehekin, to stay  
 22 open all winter. That will bring employment to the  
 23 valley, but better yet, think about if you're the  
 24 present carrier, that will bring a place for your  
 25 people to come to. It's a lot easier to sell a day

1 we support the Stehekin community, it's an amazing  
 2 place. And basically, everything has been said so I  
 3 just would like to go on record as supporting this.  
 4 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 5 Mr. Jim Bennett.  
 6 MR. BENNETT: Jim Bennett, Jim you can spell,  
 7 Bennett, B-e-n-n-e-t-t. I am a long-time visitor to  
 8 Stehekin, and I've heard -- I support what I've heard  
 9 this morning. And I haven't heard a lot of discussion  
 10 about visitors to this destination area that come over  
 11 the mountains, like the PCT hikers coming into Stehekin  
 12 and the need that they have to get out of Stehekin to  
 13 take care of business that they can't take care of on  
 14 the trail. And if they come out after noon, they can't  
 15 go down. They have to spend the night, wait, and then  
 16 get back on the trail to finish their trip.  
 17 So I support also the hikers coming in, that they  
 18 need to have access in the afternoons to get out of  
 19 Stehekin and to get the help that they need. Thank  
 20 you.  
 21 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 22 Kenneth Gordon.  
 23 Jan Liberty.  
 24 MS. LIBERTY: Jan, J-a-n, Liberty, L-i-b-e-r-t-y.  
 25 I support everything that has been said today. As a

1 trip if you can feed them lunch, bring them to Rainbow  
 2 Falls, and have a warm place for them to sit and enjoy  
 3 Stehekin. So by revitalizing Stehekin, you will also  
 4 revitalize the Lake Chelan Boat Company.  
 5 I truly and honestly believe that one of your --  
 6 and I know that one of your responsibilities is to make  
 7 sure that necessary transportation continues, that the  
 8 current carrier is not undercut. I believe that this  
 9 new service in revitalizing Stehekin will enhance and  
 10 bring a lot more revenue to the current carrier than it  
 11 will take away and I firmly believe that.  
 12 This proposal is necessary for my business. It  
 13 has been tough to try to run my business around a  
 14 schedule that I felt I've had very little input as far  
 15 as what it has been. But now with Stehekin in both  
 16 cases and both carriers now with people growing up in  
 17 Stehekin, I feel like I have input again. And so my  
 18 business, Stehekin Valley Ranch, needs this service,  
 19 it's necessary; as a resident, I need this service; and  
 20 I believe as a community member we need this service.  
 21 Thank you.  
 22 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 23 Sharon Bennett.  
 24 MS. BENNETT: Sharon Bennet, S-h-a-r-o-n  
 25 B-e-n-n-e-t-t. We are long-time visitors of Stehekin,

1 part-time resident, there are many times that --  
 2 especially in the winter that it's very inconvenient to  
 3 travel, and I would especially ask or emphasize the  
 4 need for the flag stops that are done along the lake  
 5 for those that have cabins in those inaccessible areas  
 6 such as Canoe Creek and Flick Creek, whatever, so thank  
 7 you.  
 8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 9 Kerry Courtney.  
 10 MS. K. COURTNEY: Hello. My name is Kerry,  
 11 K-e-r-r-y, Courtney. I've lived in Stehekin for  
 12 36 years, and my family has been trying for probably  
 13 near two decades to get another boat option on this  
 14 lake.  
 15 And as a Stehekin resident, I see the need  
 16 because, you know, we have business to do down lake, we  
 17 have meetings such as this to come to, and the amount  
 18 of time that we spend traveling back and forth can be a  
 19 real inconvenience when you have days to wait in  
 20 between boats. So I see this boat as a real advantage  
 21 to the residents of Stehekin as well as the tourists.  
 22 Thank you.  
 23 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 24 Lindsey Courtney.  
 25 MS. L. COURTNEY: Just first off, I didn't stand

1 because I didn't plan on saying anything so I'll go  
 2 ahead and --  
 3 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Sure. Thank you for saying  
 4 that.  
 5 MS. L. COURTNEY: Yes.  
 6 (Ms. L. Courtney was sworn in.)  
 7 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you very much.  
 8 MS. L. COURTNEY: So Lindsey, L-i-n-d-s-e-y,  
 9 Courtney, C-o-u-r-t-n-e-y. So as the co-owner of  
 10 Backcountry Travels, Colter's wife, I obviously support  
 11 this. And we get excited about providing more  
 12 opportunities for full-time residents in Stehekin, also  
 13 just creating some more jobs, and then being able to  
 14 stay up there full-time year round.  
 15 Our family is growing so the past few winters  
 16 we've had to leave Stehekin in the winter just to have  
 17 more of a solid income because there's not a lot that  
 18 goes up there in the winter. So we're excited about  
 19 expanding options in the wintertime and also providing  
 20 more opportunities for people to stay there.  
 21 I'm a registered nurse at Lake Chelan Community  
 22 Hospital, so an opportunity to be able to leave every  
 23 day would enhance me to be able to pick up more shifts  
 24 at the hospital. I'm just on their per diem staff so a  
 25 lot of times when people are sick or go on vacation I'm

1 school. So that gives us an interesting perspective of  
 2 the community.  
 3 And also the fact that we've had a seasonal  
 4 business for about 35 years, a mountain bike rental  
 5 business, so we've been involved in the tourist  
 6 industry and seen it from the ground up and have worked  
 7 with all of the folks that have presented their  
 8 statements today.  
 9 I'd like to say what we're doing here is coming  
 10 together with a historical phenomenon. This is time  
 11 for this opportunity to be embraced. These young  
 12 people are ready to grasp the future, this is how you  
 13 do it. You say, I'm here, I want to take a risk for my  
 14 family, but I also need the assistance of the State and  
 15 its knowledge and its interest in the whole of the  
 16 situation.  
 17 So we have a great opportunity here to work  
 18 public, private energies and make this work because it  
 19 is the future of the Stehekin community that's based so  
 20 much on tourism. And you have -- I don't know how many  
 21 times you get to decide these things where it affects  
 22 the whole essence of the community and so that's why we  
 23 may seem a little -- well, maybe I'm the strident  
 24 one -- but dedicated to this because we need your  
 25 cooperation and we want it and we want to do what you

1 the one that fills in their spot. So an everyday boat  
 2 service makes me very excited because I'll be able to  
 3 work more and then also serve the hospital a little bit  
 4 more frequently. And then also it will hopefully make  
 5 my family be able to be in Stehekin full time. That's  
 6 what I would like to say. Thank you.  
 7 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 8 Kim Scutt.  
 9 MS. SCUTT: Close.  
 10 JUDGE O'CONNELL: I'm sorry.  
 11 MS. SCUTT: My name is Kim Scutt, S-c-u-t-t.  
 12 That's okay. And it's Judge McConnell, correct?  
 13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: O'Connell.  
 14 MS. SCUTT: O'Connell, sorry.  
 15 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes, but again, close enough.  
 16 MS. SCUTT: Aye yai yai, that's a good way to  
 17 start. Thank you for your attention and the  
 18 opportunity to join in support of this wonderful  
 19 measure that will offer us as a community.  
 20 I think I'll give you a little bit of background.  
 21 I've been in Stehekin since 1976, when my husband and I  
 22 and our little boy, at that point three months old,  
 23 came to Stehekin so my husband could teach in the one-  
 24 room school. And he completed that career a couple  
 25 years ago after 40 years of teaching in the Stehekin

1 need to have these young people do.  
 2 But we just appreciate you understanding that it's  
 3 economic, Cliff hit all of those points very well, and  
 4 now I'm speaking about the whole program, the whole  
 5 essence of Stehekin, tourism, business, community, and  
 6 all of these points have to do with accessibility,  
 7 choice, and economic diversity which is what gives  
 8 health to any community. That's enough. I thank you  
 9 for your time and good day.  
 10 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 11 Sue Lesmeister.  
 12 MS. LESMEISTER: No, I didn't -- I wrote no, I  
 13 wasn't speaking.  
 14 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Oh, thank you.  
 15 Patsy Martin.  
 16 MS. MARTIN: Thank you for this opportunity. I'm  
 17 here -- oh. Patsy Martin, P-a-t-s-y M-a-r-t-i-n. I'm  
 18 here from two perspectives. One is my family, friends,  
 19 and even my rotary group, we love to come over  
 20 recreationally and have done so for 20-some years to  
 21 hike in the North Cascades and Stehekin. And if there  
 22 were -- with this boat option that they're proposing we  
 23 would be able to come more often.  
 24 But the second reason I'm here today is my  
 25 professional career is working for a port district on



1 the west side of the mountains, and we work on growing  
2 good jobs and growing good economic opportunities for  
3 the Skagit Valley. What I observe are these wonderful  
4 Stehekin residents trying to do the same thing for  
5 themselves. They're trying to grow jobs and  
6 opportunities for their kids and grandkids. And having  
7 a reliable, stable, and cost-effective transportation  
8 system must happen for them to be able to do that so  
9 please support their proposal. Thank you.

10 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

11 I see here that a couple people have signed in and  
12 have noted that they do not intend to speak. I'm going  
13 to call those names anyway just in case you've changed  
14 your mind. If you've changed your mind, that's fine --  
15 or I mean, if you haven't changed your mind, that's  
16 fine, you don't have to speak, but I want to at least  
17 make sure I give you the opportunity.

18 Marge Green.

19 MS. GREEN: No.

20 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Jordana LaPorte.

21 MS. LAPORTE: Yes. Yes now. I thought you were  
22 going to read all the names. I'm sorry.

23 My name is Jordana LaPorte, J-o-r-d-a-n-a  
24 L-a-P-o-r-t-e. I'm not a resident of Stehekin, I'm a  
25 resident of Manson, Washington, and I've been a

1 leave for four or five days to go to a meeting, to make  
2 their Costco run, whatever it might be, or even just to  
3 go out to interview new employees, that's a long time  
4 to be away from your own business. So this opportunity  
5 for them to be able to come down for a few hours, meet  
6 with someone, get back home, it's wonderful for them.

7 For myself, I'd love to be able to go up and only  
8 have to spend one night. I love spending the night,  
9 it's a beautiful area, but I've got kids, I've got a  
10 business down here to run so I don't have that luxury  
11 all the time as well.

12 We all know vacations are short and few, it's not  
13 like -- what? -- the 1890s when you went up for your  
14 three- or four-week deal, we're short on time. You  
15 know, I've had friends that have come over, would love  
16 to go to Stehekin, you know, they've got to get back to  
17 their jobs in Seattle, they've got to leave Sunday  
18 night, can't do it. So I'm really looking forward to  
19 this opportunity and thank you very much for listening.

20 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

21 Logan Courtney.

22 MR. L. COURTNEY: No.

23 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Art Sanders?

24 MR. SANDERS: No.

25 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. I'm going to get this one

1 resident here for about 20 years. When I moved here  
2 20 years ago, there was a visible roll up in Chelan,  
3 the sidewalks literally rolled up after Labor Day.

4 I'm a small business owner myself and have an  
5 accounting firm, and I've watched Chelan grow for the  
6 last 20 years. I also do business in Stehekin. I  
7 can't say that they've had quite the same growth for  
8 all of the reasons that people have already presented,  
9 not having that transportation. I do believe this new  
10 boat is a great opportunity for the area. I support it  
11 emphatically and I believe it is a supplement.

12 If you have children and you've gone to  
13 Disneyland, you sign up for a Fastpass because you want  
14 to get where you want to go when you need to get there.  
15 And as a business person, I've been unable to go up to  
16 Stehekin at times because the boat didn't allow for me  
17 to leave my own business for three or four days just to  
18 do a few hours worth of work up there.

19 And although many have said it's an inconvenience,  
20 the current system, it's not just an inconvenience for  
21 both -- for the owners of the businesses. Having to  
22 leave their own businesses as small business owners, we  
23 feel very -- it's very important for the business owner  
24 to be at their business while their guests are there,  
25 while their clients are there, and if they have to

1 wrong. Brun Garfoot.

2 MR. GARFOOT: No.

3 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Reed Courtney.

4 MR. R. COURTNEY: My name is Reed Courtney. I'm a  
5 lifetime resident of Stehekin, also the current owner  
6 of Mountain Barge Services with 20 years experience on  
7 Lake Chelan. I believe I can only speak to customers  
8 and Mountain Barge is a customer-based service and  
9 customers like options.

10 I believe this is an option for customers to  
11 access remote areas of Lake Chelan, upper Lake Chelan,  
12 and I believe that a smaller, more maneuverable boat  
13 can service areas of the lake that many of these  
14 residents who have spoken today is unrealistic to drop  
15 a 100-foot boat at so I believe it provides options for  
16 customers who have no options.

17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

18 Darrel Lewman.

19 MR. LEWMAN: Good morning. Darrel Lewman,  
20 L-e-w-m-a-n. I'm a resident of -- born and raised in  
21 Manson, and my brother and I have a parcel of land  
22 that's four miles down from Stehekin, and the only  
23 access to it is by private boat or a floatplane or a  
24 trail. And our family, we have a large family between  
25 the two of us, and we've been trying to get people up

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1 there but it's just with our schedule, we have private  
 2 boats, but our friends and families do not. And we'd  
 3 just like to be able to utilize the place fully with  
 4 all the family.  
 5 And I can recall back, the house was built in '46,  
 6 our grandparents took it over in the mid-'50s, and then  
 7 my brother and I took it over in the '70s. And I can  
 8 remember back -- way back when when the Boat Company  
 9 would go up lake, we could go out and put a white sheet  
 10 out and they would stop on the way down and pick people  
 11 up. Then they changed that to you had to paint a piece  
 12 of plywood out there in yellow and they would stop by.  
 13 But anyway, we fully support this proposal and  
 14 hope that, you know, it will benefit the whole valley  
 15 all the way around. Thank you very much.  
 16 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 17 Linda Davis.  
 18 MS. DAVIS: No.  
 19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Jeff Davis.  
 20 MR. DAVIS: No.  
 21 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Peggy Courtney.  
 22 MS. P. COURTNEY: Good morning. Thank you very  
 23 much for this opportunity. I appreciate it. My name  
 24 is Peggy, last name is Courtney, C-o-u-r-t-n-e-y. And  
 25 I just want to go on record as supporting all of the

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1 positive feedback for Backcountry Travels. I feel  
 2 we're coming into a new era, it's exciting. I think  
 3 that their vision will just do nothing but synergize  
 4 with the current services and just really support this  
 5 effort they're making. Thank you.  
 6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 7 MR. J. MILLER: Your Honor?  
 8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes.  
 9 MR. J. MILLER: Would it be possible to just  
 10 clarify the persons who are signed up but not speaking,  
 11 I don't know if it indicates on the sign-in sheet,  
 12 whether they're supportive of the application or not,  
 13 just so that's clear on the record that these persons  
 14 are here to support Backcountry?  
 15 JUDGE O'CONNELL: On the sheet it only indicates  
 16 whether they wish to speak or not.  
 17 MR. J. MILLER: Would the Court entertain inviting  
 18 those persons just to state briefly if they're in  
 19 support or not of the application?  
 20 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Of course, anyone may state  
 21 whether they're in support of the application or not  
 22 but I'm not going to require them to do so. If there's  
 23 someone here who just wants to be present because  
 24 they're interested in the matter, to hear what other  
 25 people say, I'm not going to require anyone to say

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1 whether they support or not.  
 2 MR. J. MILLER: Thank you.  
 3 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Cindy Engstrom.  
 4 MS. ENGSTROM: Cindy Engstrom, Lake Chelan Boat  
 5 Company. Last name is E-n-g-s-t-r-o-m. And I just  
 6 wanted to say that we're in the interesting situation  
 7 where we are in the midst of transferring the  
 8 certificate to new ownership, and we support them and  
 9 they did not ask me to speak.  
 10 I'm actually speaking more because I believe after  
 11 my family having the service for 35 years, that on the  
 12 part of the public and even all of these people here  
 13 that are in support probably of both services and all  
 14 the people involved, it's important for people to  
 15 realize that in a regulated service that they are very  
 16 protected from overcharging and all of that.  
 17 So my concerns would be that people believe that  
 18 the rates would be better because what I do see is  
 19 another service coming on and taking initially up to  
 20 10,000 passengers leaves a void in the Lake Chelan Boat  
 21 Company's service, which of course, again, I'm saying  
 22 this -- I'm making these comments just from our  
 23 experience, not from our future because this won't be  
 24 our future.  
 25 It will be the future of the people taking on the

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1 service and our concern would be about them being  
 2 successful and being able to provide the level of  
 3 service we've even provided because the -- in order to  
 4 have the larger vessels and all of that is entailed the  
 5 property to operate that off of, that's a huge  
 6 investment, and we want the new owners -- which is  
 7 Discover Lake Chelan -- to be successful.  
 8 And so I don't -- you know, you can have more  
 9 options, they will probably be more expensive. Of  
 10 course, if -- if there is more ridership that fills the  
 11 void that the new service would take from Lake Chelan  
 12 Boat Company, then the playing field, you know, would  
 13 be even again and we might be at the same rates.  
 14 But I just wanted to point that out because I  
 15 understand options are good and it's very exciting that  
 16 there would be new things opening up. It's April now,  
 17 we run five days per week, aside from the Lodge at  
 18 Stehekin, there's nothing open, maybe some private  
 19 cabins.  
 20 So it's exciting -- it's a very exciting time as  
 21 you can hear from all of those folks because of the  
 22 parties involved, and we're just concerned about the  
 23 success of the new ownership of Lake Chelan Boat  
 24 Company because numbers matter in order to make it  
 25 successful, and everything else we've put in written

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1 testimony.  
 2 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 3 Mr. Hitchcock, did I get that right? I'm sorry --  
 4 MR. J. MILLER: Miller.  
 5 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Mr. Miller.  
 6 MR. J. MILLER: Yes, sir.  
 7 JUDGE O'CONNELL: I apologize. Can you please  
 8 identify yourself for the court reporter?  
 9 MR. J. MILLER: Jordan Miller, counsel for  
 10 Backcountry Travels.  
 11 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 12 Randy Brooks.  
 13 MR. BROOKS: Good morning. Thank you for holding  
 14 the hearing here. My name is Randy Brooks,  
 15 B-r-o-o-k-s. I was born and raised in Chelan, I visit  
 16 Stehekin on a regular basis, and I want to emphasize my  
 17 support for the petition to have an additional service.  
 18 Everyone has spoken here very well about all the  
 19 benefits and I agree with those so thank you very much.  
 20 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 21 I apologize, I'm going to make this one probably  
 22 the worst of the day for me. Samantha --  
 23 MS. CRUTEZ: No.  
 24 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you for not making  
 25 me have to say the last name. I couldn't figure it

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1 out.  
 2 John Wilsey.  
 3 MR. WILSEY: Good morning. My name is John  
 4 Wilsey, J-o-h-n W-i-l-s-e-y. And thank you, Judge  
 5 O'Connell, for the opportunity to speak. I am in favor  
 6 of this and I'd like to go on the record saying that,  
 7 but I would also like to publically say thank you to  
 8 the Raines family for their 35 years of boat service.  
 9 The boat service is absolutely critical for our  
 10 local economy in Stehekin, we cannot exist without it.  
 11 I have -- I grew up in Stehekin, except for a time of  
 12 15 years, I've spent all my life there. And we have  
 13 witnessed over the years that there is opportunity that  
 14 has come and gone and our community has had to flow or  
 15 flux with that.  
 16 It's already been mentioned that when the Airways  
 17 went down it created difficulties in travel. And I run  
 18 three different local businesses. And I run a fly  
 19 fishing business and we had a slight bump when that  
 20 happened and we had to figure out ways to overcome our  
 21 day travelers into Stehekin.  
 22 Having said that, I'm in complete support of the  
 23 local Boat Company and I'm excited about changes but I  
 24 also believe that we are an unprecedented economic  
 25 opportunity for Stehekin Valley. And I believe that if

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1 you approve this for -- Backcountry services for their  
 2 boat, I believe it would be a benefit for the community  
 3 especially for our opportunities.  
 4 I'm especially excited for Colter and Lindsey  
 5 because the reason I was not in Stehekin for 15 years  
 6 is I got married to my wife, I followed her out of the  
 7 valley, and we saw no opportunity for us to live there.  
 8 And we lived out of the valley 15 years and then we saw  
 9 an opportunity we could return to raise our family  
 10 there. This not only benefits the community as having  
 11 another option service but it also gives a family an  
 12 opportunity to live there, and we need these  
 13 opportunities.  
 14 And it's already been stated, I don't want to  
 15 repeat everything, but Chelan is seeing amazing growth  
 16 in people, tourism is up right now, and I believe that  
 17 if we put the options out there that people can come  
 18 both to Lake Chelan Boat Company and the new  
 19 certificate if you were to grant that, that would be a  
 20 great benefit to the economy in Stehekin.  
 21 It would give the local people the chance to  
 22 expand businesses. There is opportunity but if we take  
 23 the risk to expand business, we need to have the  
 24 opportunity to make sure that the people or the clients  
 25 that come there have the opportunity to do that. Thank

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1 you very much.  
 2 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 3 Charles Miller.  
 4 MR. C. MILLER: My name is Charles Miller,  
 5 C-h-a-r-l-e-s M-i-l-l-e-r. I'm here representing both  
 6 my professional interest and that's MVM Quality  
 7 Drilling. As my dad eluded to earlier, we've got a  
 8 tremendous number of clients in the Stehekin Valley,  
 9 and having a year-round, daily, reliable alternative  
 10 for transportation of both our staff and equipment up  
 11 the lake would be of tremendous value and benefit to  
 12 the community.  
 13 I'd also like to touch on the personal side of it.  
 14 Our family owns two pieces of private property on Lake  
 15 Chelan that are accessible by boat, plane, or horseback  
 16 only. I have spent nearly my entire life recreating at  
 17 those properties. And over my life, I have watched the  
 18 slow but steady diminishment in service to be able to  
 19 access those properties, primarily in weather  
 20 conditions where it's not feasible for us to trailer  
 21 and launch our own private boats.  
 22 A year-round daily alternative that offers flag  
 23 stops to our private properties is of a tremendous  
 24 personal benefit and asset. Our family has taken on  
 25 the significant expense and endeavor to create dock

1 facilities that met the current boat service's needs  
2 for a significant period of time until what appears to  
3 be they just decided not to any longer. We have been  
4 assured by Backcountry Travels that our facilities  
5 would meet their needs and it's really exciting to me  
6 to look forward to that potential opportunity.

7 Currently, my family is living in the Stehekin  
8 Valley, our kids are doing a short, mini semester  
9 abroad, so to speak. Just in this approximately  
10 one-month window that my family has been living there,  
11 we have -- well, right now they missed school this  
12 morning because the only option was the boat today  
13 versus yesterday they could have spent Easter weekend  
14 here as a family and gone up yesterday afternoon.

15 I'm -- it's hitting home real quickly what the  
16 daily year-round service would offer and I urge you to  
17 consider that value in your decision-making.

18 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

19 Parker Nolen.

20 MR. NOLEN: Parker Nolen, last name N-o-l-e-n.  
21 I'd like to thank you for having this meeting today. I  
22 want to first be on the record that I'm not here  
23 representing Chelan Seaplanes at all but as a young man  
24 inspiring to hopefully eventually bring that service  
25 back into the valley here and would like to offer

1 MR. CUMPARKER: No.

2 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Kristin Shively.  
3 Jack Raines.

4 MS. RAINES: No.

5 MR. RAINES: I didn't even know my name was on  
6 there.

7 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Marilyn Raines.

8 MS. RAINES: No.

9 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Parrie Pleyte.

10 MS. PLEYTE: No.

11 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Monica Courtney.

12 MS. M. COURTNEY: Yes. Monica, M-o-n-i-c-a,  
13 Courtney. I just support the proposal brought forth  
14 today by Backcountry, and the points that have been  
15 made have been made well. There are just a couple  
16 things that I would like to add.

17 I've been living in Stehekin -- came there 40-plus  
18 years ago, met my husband, married, now we have six  
19 grandchildren in Stehekin, and I definitely have seen a  
20 decline in the Stehekin community based on many things,  
21 but one of them I think is the lack of opportunity for  
22 year-round employment up there. And year-round  
23 employment is made difficult when the boat only runs  
24 three days a week.

25 I have seen in the past when the boat ran more

1 definitely my support to Colter here.

2 Because as a person who works alongside the  
3 Airways, the more people you get in the valley, the  
4 more people that have to come back. So with an  
5 airplane service hopefully eventually coming back, it's  
6 just a matter of more people that need to be  
7 transported.

8 So as a valley, community as a whole, another  
9 option for people especially when a floatplane can only  
10 fit six people, a lot of times, busy weekends, the  
11 floatplane was full, people would have to ride back on  
12 the boat, it didn't fit their schedule. An operation  
13 like Colter is suggesting here would give people  
14 another option.

15 As a side note, I'm a personal property owner up  
16 Lake Chelan and having an opportunity to take a daily  
17 boat up there, commercial travel, is pretty exciting  
18 rather than, like Charles Miller mentioned, trying to  
19 trailer a boat in the winter when there's a foot of  
20 snow and the boat launch is icy, it's not really  
21 something you can do. So getting more recreation time  
22 up lake is something that's pretty exciting. Thank  
23 you.

24 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

25 Merdin Cumparker.

1 frequently in the winter businesses spring up,  
2 cross-country skiing packages made available, snowshoes  
3 to rent, and then when the boat schedule changed, then  
4 those businesses couldn't survive so they disappeared.  
5 And you can't create and go forward with a business  
6 when you can't be sure of having incoming visitors. So  
7 I think the economy of Stehekin could be greatly  
8 benefitted.

9 I would love to be able to see my grandchildren as  
10 they grow up be able to stay in the valley. I think a  
11 lot of young people who have grown up in Stehekin have  
12 felt like they have to leave. Seasonal work is great  
13 but to only have an income for half the year is  
14 difficult to make a go of it.

15 And also, I within the past year and a half have  
16 been a frequent boat passenger, and I believe that  
17 there is quite a lot of boat business in the  
18 summertime. I a number of times last summer without  
19 having made a reservation to get on the boat showed up  
20 in the morning to be told that there was no room. And  
21 so I just want that to be made clear, that there are  
22 people that are being turned away at 8:30 in the  
23 morning, and that leaves the whole rest of the day when  
24 other people could get on a boat and travel to  
25 Stehekin. And that's the only additional points I

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1 wanted to make. Thank you for the opportunity.  
 2 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 3 Mistaya Johnston.  
 4 MS. JOHNSTON: My name is Mistaya Johnston,  
 5 M-i-s-t-a-y-a J-o-h-n-s-t-o-n. Thank you for this  
 6 opportunity to be here. And I just would like to go on  
 7 record to say I support Backcountry LLC. I'm a  
 8 resident of Chelan, we have a cabin in Stehekin.  
 9 The current schedule we have right now, my husband  
 10 and I both work shift work, and so a lot of times we'll  
 11 get off after the boat has already left -- get off  
 12 work -- and so that makes it so we have to wait, one,  
 13 two, or sometimes three days to make it up there. So  
 14 it hinders our ability to go to Stehekin a lot.  
 15 And then I think a lot of the other things have  
 16 already been represented for just tourism and all of  
 17 that so I would just like to say I support the  
 18 Backcountry LLC. Thank you.  
 19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 20 Barb Polley.  
 21 MS. POLLEY: Yes. I'm Barb Polley, Polley is  
 22 P-o-l-l-e-y. We've had property on the lake in a area  
 23 that is not accessible by anything but boat or plane,  
 24 and we've been there for a number of years. It's  
 25 family property so there are several families that are

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1 involved in it. I support the proposal and I agree  
 2 with what's been said previously.  
 3 The one thing I would like to bring up is with  
 4 private property, anybody that's on the lake knows,  
 5 there's a lot of maintenance for your property. And so  
 6 the work for that maintenance on the lake needs to be  
 7 done when the lake is down and getting there at that  
 8 time of the year is difficult except in a private boat.  
 9 So some of us can get there in a private boat but for a  
 10 large work party we need more transportation there and  
 11 some of our owners do not have boat access to come in  
 12 as a flag stop on the boat service.  
 13 So when we went to get together for a work party  
 14 it's very difficult to have access to get that work  
 15 done when the lake is down because it's not just the  
 16 winter months, you know, that's not public service,  
 17 it's spring and fall also that we're limited on  
 18 availability. So thank you for this opportunity to  
 19 speak and for your coming here to do this today.  
 20 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 21 Kit Cramer.  
 22 MS. CRAMER: I would. I changed my mind.  
 23 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.  
 24 MS. CRAMER: That won't surprise the Courtneys,  
 25 they all know I like to talk. It's K-i-t C-r-a-m-e-r.

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1 And thank you guys for this today. And my family has  
 2 had a long relationship with Stehekin and the Courtneys  
 3 and generational. I have pictures of my father at  
 4 three years old in the sand at Weaver Point so it's  
 5 delightful.  
 6 Anyway, I just wanted to let everybody know that  
 7 I'm very much in support of these young people starting  
 8 this operation so that would be fantastic. Thank you.  
 9 JUDGE O'CONNELL: I forgot. Thank you for  
 10 reminding me, Mr. Roberson.  
 11 (Ms. Cramer was sworn in.)  
 12 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 13 Kathy Steveson.  
 14 MS. STEVESON: No.  
 15 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Caroline Summers.  
 16 MS. SUMMERS: No.  
 17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Kay Sonn -- Sinn.  
 18 Anne Brooks.  
 19 MS. BROOKS: No.  
 20 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Linda Martinson.  
 21 MS. MARTINSON: No.  
 22 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Corianne Courtney.  
 23 MS. C. COURTNEY: No.  
 24 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Is there anyone else in the room  
 25 who would like to come up and give their thoughts or

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1 opinions?  
 2 Okay. So thank you all for coming today. I  
 3 appreciate the time and effort you put in to come here.  
 4 I'm hearing all of your comments, I've heard a lot of  
 5 your stories about how it is you got here, so thank you  
 6 for sharing.  
 7 One last time, is there anyone who would like to  
 8 speak before I close this public comment hearing?  
 9 MS. SCUTT: Can I respeak? Well, I mean, add a --  
 10 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Sure, please.  
 11 MS. SCUTT: I think that you'll -- and if I don't  
 12 have to come up there, that'd be fine.  
 13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Well, I'd rather you did come up  
 14 here so the court reporter can hear you.  
 15 MS. SCUTT: Okay.  
 16 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.  
 17 MS. SCUTT: Kim Scutt, S-c-u-t-t. One thing that  
 18 I sort of overlooked in suggesting another benefit to  
 19 this service is that -- in that I've been in Stehekin  
 20 for a number of years and have worked on a number of  
 21 different projects that have to do with outside  
 22 interests that come to the valley. I'm talking about  
 23 representatives, senators, park service officials, PUD  
 24 dudes, UTC judges perhaps, the point I'm making and I  
 25 think it's probably overdone because you know it by now

1 is that Stehekin is a place that if you really have  
2 never been there it's kind of hard to understand really  
3 the beauty of the place as well as the unique character  
4 of the valley compliments of all the folks that live  
5 there, and of course, those that visit and come back  
6 and share their joy for the valley.

7 So from a broader political situation, it's nice  
8 to have an opportunity to talk to people that say they  
9 want to get a sense of what's going on in the valley  
10 for whatever issue is at hand, they never can get to  
11 Stehekin for that personal face-to-face contact which  
12 is very important in small community politics.

13 And so just wanted to say that that would open  
14 things up because we've had difficulties getting folks  
15 that are interested in being in and getting a sense of  
16 Stehekin so they can make their decisions about what  
17 might be going on but can't get to us. And so this is  
18 great being able to be here in Chelan but maybe next  
19 time if there's another issue, Stehekin could be a base  
20 because Stehekin is what is being discussed.

21 So I like the idea of having options so that folks  
22 that want -- the official folks want to talk to folks  
23 in Stehekin they can get there and actually get home  
24 without being away too long. Thank you.

25 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

1 CERTIFICATE  
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
3 )  
4 COUNTY OF YAKIMA )

5 This is to certify that I, Dani White, Certified  
6 Court Reporter in and for the State of Washington,  
7 residing at Selah, reported the within and foregoing  
8 proceedings; said proceedings being taken before me on  
9 the date herein set forth; that the witnesses were first  
10 taken by the law judge duly sworn; that said proceedings were  
11 taken by me in shorthand and thereafter, under my  
12 supervision, transcribed; and that same is a full, true,  
13 and correct record of the testimony of said witnesses,  
14 including all questions, answers, and objections, if any,  
15 of counsel.

16 I further certify that I am not a relative or  
17 employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties,  
18 nor am I financially interested in the outcome of the  
19 cause.

20 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have set my hand this 3rd  
21 day of May, 2019.

22  
23 DANI WHITE  
CCR NO. 3352

24  
25

1 Again, thank you all for your participation. With  
2 that, we're going to be off the record. And if you are  
3 interested, you may already know, there will be an  
4 evidentiary hearing for this matter this afternoon.  
5 That's it. Thank you very much.

6 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 10:17 A.M.)

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