



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Douglas B. MacDonald
Secretary of Transportation

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STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Washington State Ferries
2911 2nd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121-1081

206-515-3400
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries

Michael G. Thorne
Director and CEO

May 17, 2004

Ms. Carol J. Washburn
Secretary
Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Docket # TS040650

Dear Ms. Washburn,

Washington State Ferries' staff has reviewed Aqua Express' application to begin passenger and freight service between Seattle and Kingston. Although the 10-mile rule no longer applies to the movement of passengers across Puget Sound, Washington State Ferries does not object to this application for the movement of both passengers and freight.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss further; if requested staff would also be able to attend the hearing on the matter.

Sincerely,

Sam Kuntz
Chief Financial Officer

Cc: Bonny Allen
Rusty Fallis

