



To Records Center

Washington State Senate

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May 4, 2004

The Honorable Marilyn Showalter, Chairwoman
The Honorable Dick Hemstad, Commissioner
The Honorable Patrick J. Oshie, Commissioner
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

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MAY 13 AM 8:57
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
WASHINGTON STATE SENATE

Dear Madam Showalter, Commissioner Hemstad and Commissioner Oshie:

This letter is an expression of support of the combined effort of commercial ferry operators and Kitsap Transit to reintroduce passenger-only ferry service between Bremerton and Seattle.

Passenger-only ferry service is a key element of Washington State's transportation network and provides a vital link between Kitsap and King Counties. Until it was discontinued in September of 2003, this service was provided by the Washington State Ferries (WSF).

Current WSF service between Bremerton and Seattle does not fully meet demand, in terms of frequency and transit time (speed). This restricts economic activity throughout our county and region and effects the lives of many of my constituents.

Under legislative authority granted during 2003, Kitsap Transit, acting as the local Public Transportation and Benefit Area, failed in its attempt to re-establish this service. A private-sector ferry operator has reached agreement with Kitsap Transit and has Transit's support to ~~ply to the Washington Transportation and Utilities Commission for a permit to serve this route~~ on an ongoing commercial basis.

There is an urgent and immediate need for this service and I urge the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to favorably consider the application being made to it by Kitsap Ferry Company, LLC.

Sincerely,

Senator Bob Oke
26th Legislative District
Washington State Senate