May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Mr. Mark L. Johnson Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 1300 S. Evergreen Park DR SW P.O. Box 47259 Olympia, WA. 98504-7250

BML Investments LLC, DBA Wenatchee Valley Shuttle Certificate Number 64605

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The company is requesting a rate increase. This increase is imperative to continue with current necessary demands and growth-minded operations. The company is in need of this increase due to: Employment wages drastic and continual increase, health insurance benefits for staff, the raising of company insurance, the need to purchase more vehicles and continue to grow with demands, and other increasing costs of operations.

Currently the company is paying very little pay to its employees, simply because it cannot afford more. The company has a strong, loyal team and wishes to be able to pay its employees what they deserve for the liability and work they so safely perform at optimum levels, to better support their families and to reduce turnover. Currently pay ranges between \$12-\$16/hr depending on if a driver is CDL certified or not, and how long they have been employed with the company.

In regards to Health insurance, the company has previously not offered any health benefits or incentives for its staff. In order to find, hire, and maintain a strong team, the company needs to offer some health benefits.

The company also has no losses or claims when it comes to company/fleet insurance; however, insurance still continues to rise \$20,000 each year, regardless of the safe driving record the company holds.

Another reason for this need is beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, the company will be running continuously at four runs daily from then on. In the past the company has run three runs, except for four runs during holiday season. However with growth comes convenience and minimizing wait times to encourage more ridership. Also, a new van will need to be purchased to help with this additional run as well.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. We appreciate your time and attention with this matter, so we may continue to serve Central Washington for many years to come.

Sincerely, Monique Lott Owner Wenatchee Valley Shuttle

OMMISSION

Records Management