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October 31, 2011

Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission

Attn: Richard Smith  
Tina Leipski

Re: Orcas Island Shuttle, Inc. C-1079  
Request to Permanently Discontinue Service

To Whom It May Concern:

Orcas Island Shuttle, Inc. is hereby requesting approval to permanently discontinue service under its certificate of authority #C-1079.

Contact Person: Edward J. or Amy R. Masters  
160 Exton Road or PO Box 208  
Orcas, WA 98280-0208  
Phone# 360-376-7433  
Email: [email@orcasislandshuttle.com](mailto:email@orcasislandshuttle.com)

We are making this request after 8 years of failed attempts to make a profitable public transportation service on Orcas Island. Our service serves only approximately 2% of local residents with the remainder being tourists visiting during the summer months late June through early September. We are unable to continue to financially support this service for reasons including, but not limited to, the high costs of maintenance, fuel, advertising and insurance, along with a steadily declining ridership since 2008 leading up to our slowest season in 2011. In addition, the prohibitive regulatory obstacles combined with immense risk exposure make it a difficult service to operate on a small, private scale.

The commission's refusal to grant approval to discontinue service would put the survival of our business as a whole at great risk.

Based on numbers from our 2011 season, approximately 30-50 passengers daily could potentially lose service if the public bus were no longer operating under this certificate. Those passengers will still have availability of rental cars and taxi service still available on Orcas.

Taxi service is provided by Orcas Island Taxi and Orcas New Taxi. Rental cars are available through Orcas Island Shuttle, Inc. and Orcas Mopeds.

We appreciate the commission's consideration in this matter and look forward to your reply.

Kind Regards,  
Edward J. and Amy R. Masters  
Owners  
Orcas Island Shuttle, Inc.