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October 12, 2004

Carole J. Washburn
WUTC Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504

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STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Re: Pacific Cruises Northwest, Inc. Application No. B-079240, Docket
No. TS-031996.

Dear Ms. Washburn:

I am lending my support of the extension of Certificate BC-10 to authorize express passenger-only service between Bellingham and Friday Harbor.

As the tourism marketing agency for the region, we know that viable transportation options for the public and residents are critical. Direct service between Bellingham and Friday Harbor has been unavailable for three years. I support the application of Pacific Cruises Northwest, Inc. because we believe that its provision of additional passenger-only ferry service will be of particular benefit and convenience to the economies of the region. It will provide rapid transportation of passengers to and from the San Juan Islands, thereby augmenting the Washington State Ferry service. It will provide expeditious service, not only to and from the San Juan Islands, but also Victoria and other state destinations.

Institution of this service is consistent with the Legislature's plan to promote private passenger-only ferry service and to address the state and national economy's reliance on automobile transportation.

Given these needs, we ask that the Commission consider this application favorably for its beneficial impact on businesses and commuters in Northwest Washington. Addition of water-based transportation links is clearly consistent with present and future transportation infrastructure planning for the entire Puget Sound region.

Yours in tourism,

John Cooper

President

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