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Commissioners * Mike Ahrenius * Brian Calvert * Greg Hertel * www.portfridayharbor.org

October 27, 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

RECEIVED
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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:

This letter is to support the extension of Certificate BC-10 to authorize express passenger-only service between Bellingham and Friday Harbor.

During the past three years, direct service between Bellingham and Friday Harbor has been unavailable to us. We 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 Friday Harbor Port District, and will promote the rapid transportation of passengers to and from the San Juan Islands which will supplement and augment the Washington State Ferry service currently available (albeit from Bellingham). We believe that the service will be used for commuter-type transportation, i.e. to move between Bellingham and Friday Harbor for shopping, medical appointments and/or to promote tourism between Bellingham/Whatcom County and the San Juan Islands. This service will also provide a link to Victoria and other state and international destinations by way of other providers.

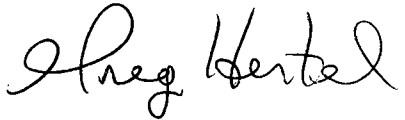
The Port of Friday Harbor has a policy of encouraging water passenger transportation. We also believe that the institution of this service is consistent with the Legislature's plan to promote private passenger-only ferry service and to address the state and national economy's reliance on automobile transportation, which in a era of greatly escalating fuel prices and continuing air pollution concerns is a major factor in support of such service.

We therefore strongly endorse Pacific Cruises' application and ask that the Commission consider it favorably for its beneficial impact on businesses and commuters in Northwestern Washington.

The Port of Friday Harbor - an island friendly port

Addition of such water-based transportation links is clearly consistent with present and future transportation infrastructure planning for the entire Puget Sound region and will incrementally boost the economic circumstances of all potentially affected by the new service.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Hertel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Greg Hertel, President
Friday Harbor Port Commission