

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
42nd DISTRICT
DOUG ERICKSEN

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives

TRANSPORTATION
RANKING MEMBER
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

November 2, 2004



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

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

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT
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STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Washburn:

I'm writing in support of the extension of Certificate BC-10 to authorize express passenger-only service between Bellingham and Friday Harbor.

Direct service between Bellingham and Friday Harbor has not been available for the past three years. I support the application of Pacific Cruises Northwest, Inc., because I believe that its provision of additional passenger-only ferry service will be convenient and beneficial to the economies of Northwestern Washington such as Whatcom and San Juan Counties. In addition, it will promote the rapid transportation of passengers to and from the San Juan Islands, which will supplement the Washington State Ferry service currently available. Private ferry alternatives such as this proposal can work in tandem with the WSF by providing additional Bellingham-originating passengers linked to WSF routes thereby creating a private-public transportation synergy.

I anticipate using the service for commuter-type transportation to travel between Bellingham and Friday Harbor for meetings. Offering a nonstop POF link between Bellingham and Friday Harbor will stimulate tourism between northwestern Washington and the San Juans. This service will provide more direct and expeditious service to and from the San Juan Islands and even onto Victoria and other state and international destinations.

It is my belief that the institution of such additional service will promote economic development and foster additional opportunities for businesses. The institution of this service is consistent with the 2003 Legislature's revisions to Title 81.84 through EHB 1388 to remove barriers and promote private passenger-only ferry service. Demand for waterborne links between the San Juans and the northwest Washington mainland is increasing in this era of escalating fuel prices and continuing environmental concerns. This addresses the state and national economy's reliance on automobile transportation, which is a major factor in support of such service.

Page two

I strongly endorse Pacific Cruises' application, and I urge the Commission to give it favorable consideration for its beneficial impact on businesses and commuters in Northwestern Washington. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Ericksen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Representative Doug Ericksen
42nd Legislative District

DE:slr