

TS-040794

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
23rd DISTRICT
PHIL ROCKEFELLER

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives

NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION



April 26, 2004

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CHAIR, WUTC

Ms. Marilyn Showalter, Chair
Mr. Dick Hemstad, Commissioner
Mr. Patrick J. Oshie, Commissioner
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive, SW
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Dear Commissioners:

It is my understanding that Kitsap Ferry Company will soon be making application for a permit to reestablish passenger only ferry service between Bremerton and Seattle. I am writing today to voice my strong support for approval of this request.

As you know, this vital service was provided for several years by Washington State Ferries (WSF). In the face of severe budget cuts, WSF eliminated the passenger-only service, maintaining instead only auto ferries on the Bremerton/Seattle run. This limited service does not appear to meet the demand of commuters for increased trip frequency and shorter transit time.

Under legislative authority granted during 2003, Kitsap Transit, acting as the local Public Transportation and Benefit Area, failed in its attempt to reestablish this service. Kitsap Ferry Company has subsequently reached agreement with Kitsap Transit, and has Transit's support to apply to the Washington Transportation and Utilities Commission for a permit to serve this route on an ongoing commercial basis.

With Kitsap Ferry Company's permit application, a new opportunity has been created to reintroduce the much needed transportation system. This service will benefit both daily commuters and visitors, and help stimulate economic activity throughout our region. I urge your favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

PHIL ROCKEFELLER
State Representative
23rd District

cc: Gregory A. Dronkert
Pacific Marine Group, Inc.
197 Parfitt Way SW, Suite 109
Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110