

**APPLICANT STATEMENT**

(To be completed by the individual requesting operating authority)

Applicant Name:  
**Backcountry Travels LLC**

Application Docket No.:  
**TS-180677**

**THE APPLICATION** *What authority are you applying for? Include any amendments.*

A daily, year round commercial ferry service on Lake Chelan based out of Stehekin WA. The vessel that will be used is a quiet, comfortable and efficient thirty two passenger catamaran. The vessel would leave Stehekin at 10:40am daily and return at 1pm, arriving back in Stehekin at 2:45pm.

**SUPPORT STATEMENT**

(To be completed by the individual or business/organization supporting the request for operating authority)

**THE TRANSPORTATION NEED** *Briefly describe the transportation service that you need and that the application could provide to you or your business/organization if this request for operating authority is granted.*

Currently we always have to travel to the Chelan area a day prior to a trip to Lucerne or Stehekin because we live at a distance with a 4-5 hour drive to Chelan. Lady of The Lake departs Chelan at 8:30am. This necessitates arranging for lodging and meals in Chelan or frequently at Pateros when Chelan accommodations are not available for single night stays (2-night minimum). Both my wife and I are over 65 and we avoid long drives at night. We also need to stay overnight in the Chelan or Wenatchee area when returning back from Stehekin because the Lady of the Lake doesn't get back to Fields Point until 5pm, again to avoid long driving at night. As we age we are also concerned that the current limited ferry service may be a particular problem, especially since flight service is no longer available, and should a medical issue occur for us or for anyone else in the valley.

**Are your transportation needs being met now? Yes \_\_\_ No X If not, explain problems you have experienced**

Early departure and late return of the current ferry(s) results in us and many of our friends having to arrange accommodations before and after trips to Stehekin. This has impacted our desired lengths of stay and causes additional significant expenses. The Chelan area has become more popular leaving us often unable to stay in Chelan, adding more drive time. Also, lodging is extremely difficult to find during the 3 week Leavenworth's Octoberfest interval within a 60 mile radius of Chelan. Lady of the Lake has limited stops, and the Lady Express cannot put hikers off at Prince Creek and Moore Point. Backcountry Travel's boat can use many of the recreation docks and private docks that Lady of the Lake is too big to use.

**If the request is denied, would it have any effect on you or your business/organization:**

Yes X No \_\_\_ If yes, please explain. \_\_\_

As noted above we will continue to need accommodations, including lodging and meals, before and after trips to Stehekin which we find both very inconvenient and expensive. My wife and I are both retired, and although our schedules may be more flexible then when we were working, we do not want to continue to incur the additional expense and inconvenience.

**VERIFICATION**

(To be completed by the individual or business/organization supporting the request for operating authority)

Name and Title: **Frank P. Rossi**

Business/Organization: n/a

Street/ mailing address: **8031 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.E.**

City, State, Zip Code: **Newcastle, WA 98056**

Telephone Number: **425-271-8114**

Fax Number:

*I understand that this information is being given as the basis for a grant of operating authority by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, an agency of the state of Washington. I certify or declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the information contained in this statement is true and correct.*

Frank P. Rossi



8/19/2018

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

### IMPORTANT!!!

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Support statements should reach the WUTC **WITHIN 30 DAYS** or the APPLICATION MAY BE DISMISSED. We also suggest that you keep a copy of each statement.

If you have questions or need additional assistance, contact Licensing Services (360) 664-1222. **Note: Please be sure to write your application/docket number on all forms.**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Licensing Services

PO Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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**RECEIVED**  
AUG 24 2018

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We find it very limiting to not have year round ferry service to/from Stehekin as we often visit in the winter with guests and must find a private source of transportation, few of which are available on the lake in the winter. The current schedule is also very inconvenient for summertime travel when availability can be limited, especially for the more time efficient boat. And, the only available option gets you back into Chelan from Stehekin late in the afternoon. Further, current ferry service leaves Chelan around 8am. Having a later departure time around 1pm would be very helpful.

Are your transportation needs being met now? Yes \_\_\_ No X If not, explain problems you have experienced.

They are described above.

If the request is denied, would it have any affect on you or your business/organization: Yes X No \_\_\_ If yes, please explain.

We would not have the flexibility for our guests that we described above. The current system limits access to Stehekin and to the National Park.

**VERIFICATION**

(To be completed by the individual or business/organization supporting the request for operating authority)

Name and Title: Ronald C. Foster, General Manager

Business/Organization: Foster Family Legacy LLLP, a Washington State business

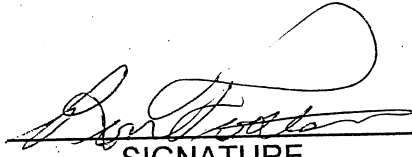
Street/Mailing Address: 690 S. Lakeshore Rd.

City, State, Zip Code: Chelan, WA 98816

Telephone Number: 208-340-3665 Fax Number: 509-888-8111

*I understand that this information is being given as the basis for a grant of operating authority by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, an agency of the state of Washington. I certify or declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the information contained in this statement is true and correct.*

Ronald C. Foster  
PRINT NAME

  
SIGNATURE

18 August 2018  
DATE

**IMPORTANT!!!**

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
Licensing Services  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

**Note: Please be sure to write your application/docket number on all forms.**

Applicant Name:  
Backcountry Travels LLC

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① **THE TRANSPORTATION NEED** Briefly describe the transportation service that you need and that the application could provide to you or your business/organization if this request for operating authority is granted. THE SCHEDULE OF THE EXISTING FERRY SERVICE ON LAKE CHELAN MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS DOWN LAKE FOR STEHEKIN RESIDENTS

INSIDE OF NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS WITHOUT SPENDING TWO → OVER

② Are your transportation needs being met now? Yes \_\_\_ No  If not, explain problems you have experienced.

CHELAN SEAPLANES USED TO PROVIDE AN (EXPENSIVE) ALTERNATIVE SCHEDULE TO THE EXISTING FERRY SERVICE WHICH ALLOWED FOR STEHEKIN RESIDENTS TO ATTEND → OVER

③ If the request is denied, would it have any affect on you or your business/organization: Yes  No \_\_\_ If yes, please explain.

I WILL CONTINUE TO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO LEAVE STEHEKIN, MY HOME, AND RETURN IN A TIMELY MANNER. IN THE LONG RUN THIS LACK OF OPTIONS ADDS UP TO MORE WORK DAYS MISSED, MORE MONEY SPENT ON ACCOMMODATIONS DOWNLAKE. → OVER

**VERIFICATION**

(To be completed by the individual or business/organization supporting the request for operating authority)

Name and Title: PATRICK GIETL

Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

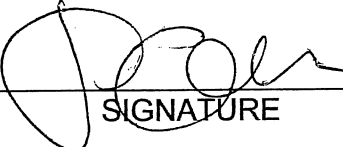
Street/Mailing Address: PO BOX 283

City, State, Zip Code: STEHEKIN WA 98852

Telephone Number: 217.556.7314 Fax Number: N/A

I understand that this information is being given as the basis for a grant of operating authority by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, an agency of the state of Washington. I certify or declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the information contained in this statement is true and correct.

PATRICK GIETL  
PRINT NAME

  
SIGNATURE

8.18.18  
DATE

① CONT'D → NIGHTS AWAY FROM HOME. THE PROPOSED SERVICE SEEMINGLY ALLOWS MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR STEHEIM RESIDENTS TO LEAVE STEHEIM TO ATTEND MEDICAL AND BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS AND RETURN HOME IN A MORE TIMELY MANNER. ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IS THE PROPOSED ONE DAY PER WEEK IN THE WINTER MONTHS WHERE THE BOAT SERVICE WOULD LEAVE STEHEIM EARLY AND RETURN LATE THE SAME DAY.

② CONT'D → APPOINTMENTS AND RETURN THE SAME DAY OR BY SPENDING A SINGLE OVER NIGHT. THE EXISTING COMMERCIAL FERRY SERVICE DOES NOT MEET THAT TRANSPORTATION NEED.

③ CONT'D → AND MORE TIME AWAY FROM HOME IN ORDER TO COMPLETE TASKS THAT MOST AMERICANS TAKE FOR GRANTED (TIMELY ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE, ERRANDS, SHOPPING, ETC.)

Applicant Name: Backcountry Travels LLC	Application Docket No.: TS-180677
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**THE TRANSPORTATION NEED** Briefly describe the transportation service that you need and that the application could provide to you or your business/organization if this request for operating authority is granted. Transportation is needed daily, year round, to facilitate and enable weekend travel to and from Stehekin for visitors, and daily transport to & from Stehekin for residents who work downlake, or need to go to doctor etc!

Are your transportation needs being met now? Yes  No  If not, explain problems you have experienced. Visitors currently must either drive very early in the morning or incur overnight expense to catch the current boat service to Stehekin. Also, during winter months it requires a two to three night stay out of the valley for appointments &

If the request is denied, would it have any affect on you or your business/organization? Yes  No  If yes, please explain. during winter months taking care of business for residents. Current lack of service prevents many visitors from coming to Stehekin on the weekends & affecting the rental possible, if this new service is allowed to operate. It also forces residents to incur lodging and meal expenses for overnight stays when taking care of business downlake.

**VERIFICATION**  
 (To be completed by the individual or business/organization supporting the request for operating authority)

Name and Title: David & Jeannetta Kurth  
 Business/Organization: <sup>DBA</sup> Stehekin Creekside Cabin Rental  
 Street/Mailing Address: P.O. Box 274  
 City, State, Zip Code: Stehekin, WA 98852  
 Telephone Number: 509-630-4550 Fax Number: n/a

I understand that this information is being given as the basis for a grant of operating authority by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, an agency of the state of Washington. I certify or declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the information contained in this statement is true and correct.

David Kurth PRINT NAME      David W. Kurth SIGNATURE      8/22/18 DATE  
Jeannetta Kurth PRINT NAME      Jeannetta Kurth SIGNATURE

Also, visitors have to stay a minimum of three nights for weekend stays, missing Friday & Monday employment days since the current service will not travel on Saturday or Sunday. This significantly reduces the number of visitors who could come and rent any rental in the Stehekin Valley.



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**Are your transportation needs being met now? Yes \_\_\_ No X If not, explain problems you have experienced**

Early departure and late return of the current ferry(s) results in us and many of our friends having to arrange accommodations before and after trips to Stehekin. This has impacted our desired lengths of stay and causes additional significant expenses. The Chelan area has become more popular leaving us often unable to stay in Chelan, adding more drive time. Also, lodging is extremely difficult to find during the 3 week Octoberfest interval within a 60 mile radius of Chelan.

**If the request is denied, would it have any effect on you or your business/organization: Yes X No \_\_\_ If yes, please explain. \_\_\_**

As noted above we will continue to need accommodations, including lodging and meals, before and after trips to Stehekin which we find both very inconvenient and expensive. My husband and I are both retired, and although our schedules may be more flexible then when we were working, we do not want to continue to incur the additional expense and inconvenience.

**VERIFICATION**

(To be completed by the individual or business/organization supporting the request for operating authority)

Name and Title: **Kathleen S. Mellon-Rossi**

TS-180677

Business/Organization: n/a

Street/ mailing address: 8031 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.E.

City, State, Zip Code: Newcastle, WA 98056

Telephone Number: 425-271-8114

Fax Number:

*I understand that this information is being given as the basis for a grant of operating authority by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, an agency of the state of Washington. I certify or declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the information contained in this statement is true and correct.*

Kathleen S. Mellon-Rossi

*Kathleen S. Mellon-Rossi* 8/19/2018

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

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RECEIVED

AUG 23 2018

WASH. UT. & TP. COM.

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**THE TRANSPORTATION NEED** Briefly describe the transportation service that you need and that the application could provide to you or your business/organization if this request for operating authority is granted.

The current ferry requires getting to Chelan early in the morning and getting home late. During the winter months this means traveling in the dark or incurring additional cost for hotel rooms in Chelan on both end of the trip. Hotels in Chelan are often hard to get at a reasonable cost during parts of the year.

Are your transportation needs being met now? Yes \_\_\_ No X If not, explain problems you have experienced.

Current ferry schedule times require additional cost because I have to stay in Chelan in order to catch the ferry to Stehekin and depending on the time of year I also have to stay in Chelan upon my return. This prevent me from seeing other customers.

If the request is denied, would it have any affect on you or your business/organization:  
Yes x No \_\_\_ If yes, please explain.

Additional cost incurred because the current ferry schedule requires staying in Chelan as many as two additional days.

RECEIVED  
PROPERTY MANAGER  
2018 AUG 23 AM 8:28  
STATE OF WASH.  
UTILITY AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

**VERIFICATION**

(To be completed by the individual or business/organization supporting the request for operating authority)

Name and Title: Carolyn Cooper - Managing Owner

Business/Organization: Cooper-Pyles Properties LLC

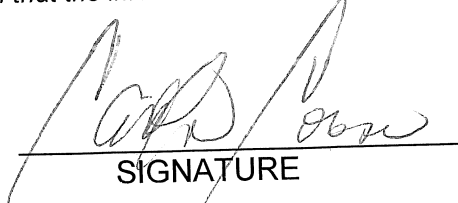
Street/Mailing Address: 3949 NW Clarence Cir

City, State, Zip Code: Corvallis OR 97330

Telephone Number: 541-760-6834 Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*I understand that this information is being given as the basis for a grant of operating authority by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, an agency of the state of Washington. I certify or declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the information contained in this statement is true and correct.*

Carolyn Cooper  
PRINT NAME

  
SIGNATURE

8/19/18  
DATE

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**THE TRANSPORTATION NEED** Briefly describe the transportation service that you need and that the application could provide to you or your business/organization if this request for operating authority is granted.

See attached letter

Are your transportation needs being met now? Yes  No  If not, explain problems you have experienced.

See attached letter

If the request is denied, would it have any affect on you or your business/organization:  
 Yes  No  If yes, please explain.

See attached letter

**VERIFICATION**

(To be completed by the individual or business/organization supporting the request for operating authority)

Name and Title: Ron Scutt

Business/Organization: Discovery Bikes, Stehekin School Supt.

Street/Mailing Address: 8 Stehekin Valley Rd.

City, State, Zip Code: Stehekin WA 98852

Telephone Number: 509 293 0011 Fax Number: —

*I understand that this information is being given as the basis for a grant of operating authority by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, an agency of the state of Washington. I certify or declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the information contained in this statement is true and correct.*

Ron Scutt  
 PRINT NAME

Ron Scutt  
 SIGNATURE

8/17/18  
 DATE

TS-180677

**To:** Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

**From:** Ron Scutt - Stehekin Valley resident

**Purpose:** To support *Backcountry Travels LLC's* application to establish a daily, year-round transportation option for Stehekin Valley residents, property owners along the shores of Lake Chelan, and visitors to the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (LCNRA) and North Cascades National Park (NCNP).

**A year-round, ferry service based in Stehekin, WA and operating on a daily basis is a transportation alternative crucial to the future of Stehekin's community, Lake Chelan property owners and visitors to the North Cascades.**

**Current Transportation Options:** Most recently, the Lake Chelan Boat Co. (LCBC) and Chelan Seaplanes provided transportation options for Stehekin's community, lakeshore properties and visitors to the LCNRA and NCNP. Both transportation services were based in Chelan until 2016. Neither service provided a daily, year-round service to Stehekin.

Regrettably, Chelan Seaplanes suspended services in 2016 when land leased for the air service operation was purchased to construct the Sunset Marina. With the absence of the seaplane option, public transportation accessing Stehekin and lakeshore properties is currently available only by the LCBC.

The LCBC provides daily transportation to Stehekin for approximately five and a half months a year during what is described on their website as the - "High Season." The rest of the year is described as the - "Off Season."

Stehekin residents and businesses should have the opportunity to realize the benefits of an alternative Stehekin based ferry service operating "All Days" during "All Seasons."

As you will see from the LCBC schedule provided at the end this letter, the LCBC suspends boat service to Stehekin on Sundays from January 1 to March 31st and runs on a four day a week service during November, December and April. The lack of a daily ferry service has a profound effect upon valley residents and visitors.

For too many years, the development of visitor services in Stehekin has been constrained because of a lack of a daily, year-round ferry service based in Stehekin. A daily, year-round ferry service is precisely what *Backcountry Travels* proposes.

**Examples of the benefits of a daily ferry service to Stehekin:** While this letter is not intended to itemize all of the positive effects of a daily ferry, I will provide just two examples at this point in time that support the consideration and granting of *Backcountry Travel's* application.

First, the lack of a Sunday boat during the winter months affects families of children attending the Stehekin School. Because a daily ferry schedule year does not currently exist, students and families who must travel downlake miss an extended

TS-180677

amount of school to make appointments and take care of essential downlake business. A daily boat schedule during the winter months would provide relief to these families and improve school attendance.

Second, there is an economic justification for establishing daily boat service to Stehekin. A regular ferry operating on a daily basis will be a boon to various rental cabins in Stehekin, as well as, the North Cascades Lodge. Winter visitation and access to the North Cascades will be encouraged by a ferry service that offers visitors greater flexibility of travel options.

*Backcountry Travels* application to provide a transportation service is unique in Lake Chelan's transportation history. To the best of my knowledge, a scheduled, daily, round-trip boat service based in Stehekin has never existed on the lake. It's time that such a ferry service is established.

In Summary, granting *Backcountry Travels* application...

- Will provide a service no other transportation service is willing to offer and is historically unique for transportation on Lake Chelan.
- Will support year-round visitation to Stehekin and the North Cascades.
- Will provide employment for those living in Stehekin
- Will create greater travel flexibility for visitors accessing Stehekin.
- Will improve access to lakeshore properties.

Thank you for consideration of these thoughts. Please notify me when hearings are scheduled to consider *Backcountry Travels'* application to serve Stehekin Valley residents, visitors to the North Cascades and property owners along Lake Chelan.

From the Lady of the Lake website:

LADY OF THE LAKE II

Daily May 1st - October 15th

LADY EXPRESS

Memorial Day weekend

(Saturday-Sunday-Monday)

Daily June 15th - September 23rd

The boat schedule changes as of October 15th: "DURING THE LATE FALL, WINTER AND SPRING MONTHS THE "LADY EXPRESS" RUNS FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF OUR WINTER TRAVELERS." (Quote from ladyofthelake.com)

The following represents the Boat Co. schedule for six months of the year.

TS-180677

January 1st through March 31st: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

April 1st through April 30th: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

October 16th through October 31st: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

November 1st through December 31st: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. No Service on Christmas Day.



RECEIVED

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Backcountry Travels LLC

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AUG 22 2018

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Transportation to Stehekin for vacation stays and backcountry access.

Are your transportation needs being met now? Yes \_\_\_ No  If not, explain problems you have experienced.

Was unable to find transportation because present service was booked and had to change vacation plans.

If the request is denied, would it have any affect on you or your business/organization: Yes  No \_\_\_ If yes, please explain.

Would need to travel after dark ~~be~~ which is dangerous with deer on highway.

**VERIFICATION**

(To be completed by the individual or business/organization supporting the request for operating authority)

Name and Title: Kathryn L Springer

Business/Organization:

Street/Mailing Address: PO Box 348

City, State, Zip Code: Peshastin, WA 98847-0348

Telephone Number: 509 433-1345 Fax Number: 509 548 6681

I understand that this information is being given as the basis for a grant of operating authority by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, an agency of the state of Washington. I certify or declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the information contained in this statement is true and correct.

Kathryn L Springer Kathryn L Springer 8-20-2018  
PRINT NAME SIGNATURE DATE

Applicant Name: Backcountry Travels LLC	Application Docket No.: TS-180677
<b>THE APPLICATION</b> What authority are you applying for? Include any amendments. A daily, year round commercial ferry service on Lake Chelan based out of Stehekin WA. The vessel that will be used is a quiet, comfortable and efficient thirty two passenger catamaran. The vessel would leave Stehekin at 10:40am daily and return at 1pm, arriving back in Stehekin at 2:45pm.	

**SUPPORT STATEMENT**  
(To be completed by the individual or business/organization supporting the request for operating authority)

**THE TRANSPORTATION NEED** Briefly describe the transportation service that you need and that the application could provide to you or your business/organization if this request for operating authority is granted. *Allows me more flexibility when planning my visits to and from Stehekin. A morning departure is Huge.*

Are your transportation needs being met now? Yes \_\_\_ No  If not, explain problems you have experienced. *Have experienced missing backcountry experiences in our National Park because existing Transportation service was booked full. Very disappointing for me.*

If the request is denied, would it have any affect on you or your business/organization: Yes  No \_\_\_ If yes, please explain. *Part of The National Park Credo, is to provide "land available for public enjoyment". Parks provide places, among other things, that are "distinguished by their superior recreational assets". If the Courtney's request is denied, just one effect would be and has been, denying access to and from these "assets", to some, by limiting the number*

**VERIFICATION**  
(To be completed by the individual or business/organization supporting the request for operating authority)

Name and Title: *Robert Springer*  
 Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street/Mailing Address: *P.O. Box 348*  
 City, State, Zip Code: *Reedstown Wash. 98847*  
 Telephone Number: *509-433-1193* Fax Number: *509-548-6681*

*I understand that this information is being given as the basis for a grant of operating authority by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, an agency of the state of Washington. I certify or declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the information contained in this statement is true and correct.*

*Robert Springer* *Robert Springer* *Aug 20 18*  
 PRINT NAME SIGNATURE DATE

*of seats available to Stehekin.*

Further move;

"In the 80's the UTC removed The "Permit System" as it applied to transport by Truck. Permits to haul different types of freight were issued to Trucks and their owners. New permit requests could be denied, if existing permitted Truck was available to fill the need.

The Permits were sold with the Permitted Truck and were often worth far more than the Truck alone. Many independent Truck Owners, with long standing Permits, relied on the value of their Permits or Permits, to be the mainstay of their retirements.

When the UTC removed the Permit System, many retiring Truck owners were devastated. I owned an equipment repair business and saw the results personally.

State Officials had no qualms removing the Trucking Permit System. One of the reasons put forth was that deregulation would provide a more competitive environment and freight prices would come down.

The Courtney's are willing to take an enormous risk by providing a transportation service, that in a competitive environment, might fail.

If the State can deregulate the Trucking industry, it can deregulate Ferry Service or Lake Chelan.

As long as The Courtney's boat, captain and crew, comply with safety regulations they should be allowed to assume the risk and provide the service they desire.

In my opinion, in this situation, the States responsibility is to help operators provide a safe operating environment, not decide who or who cannot operate a Passenger Ferry.

The competitive <sup>forces</sup> will decide that and the public will benefit because whom ever provides the best service will survive.

This is the essence of Capitalism, the foundation on which our country was built.

Sincerely

Robert Spurgeon