

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in protest against Back Country Travels LLC. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate Vessels in Furnishing Passenger Ferry Service. In Coulter Courtney's Pre-filed Testimony NO. TS-180677- Question 12, Coulter states "...you can see that the number of riders peaked nearly two decades ago in 1999 at 29,611 and that number has stagnated even though businesses in and around Stehekin have increased their capacity to serve more people."

Upon further examination, it has come to my understanding that the North Cascades Lodge, a hotspot for tourists in the summer, and the only restaurant open in the winter has shut down for the season. On their website they promote their service as "only open for lunch on days that the Lady of the Lake travels to Stehekin." But this season, they have failed to provide for guests as of 01/02/2019. This goes to show that there isn't a need for two separate services on Lake Chelan because Stehekin can't support two competing businesses. Stehekin has not increased their capacity to serve more people, specifically in the off-season as Colter claims.

By granting Colter's application, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Committee risks imposing an extreme financial burden on the Lady of the Lake and the entire community of Stehekin.

I urge you to decline the Backcountry Travel application in order to preserve what has been a long-standing company on Lake Chelan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gage Martin".

Gage Martin- Lake Chelan Washington