

May 15, 2014

CWA, Inc  
1416 Whitehorn Street  
Ferndale, WA 98248

Steve King  
Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Mr. King;

Re: Petition for Forbearance

CWA presently hold a certificate of authority to operate scheduled service between Yakima and Ellensburg as part of its Airporter Shuttle service. CWA was recently awarded a contract to run the commuter bus service between Yakima and Ellensburg and is seeking forbearance from UTC rate regulation for this service.

Commuter Service History:

In early 2012 the UTC granted Hopesource (Docket TC-111928) authority to run a commuter bus service between Yakima & Ellensburg. The service was primarily funded through a grant from the Washington Department of Transportation, Central Washington University and the City of Yakima. The passenger fare was \$4 per ride. Last year fares covered about 30% of the cost of the service.

Hopesource started service in June of 2012 and in March of 2013 operating budget overspending caused concerns for the WSDOT and the city of Yakima. In early April Hopesource gave notice that it would discontinue operations. In mid April, the WSDOT and the city of Yakima released an RFP with the hope that the service could be saved. In mid May CWA was awarded the contract to run the commuter service.

While the service has been in operation for less than a year the typical passengers that ride this bus are known. The majority of the passengers are students that travel between the two cities to attend classes at Central Washington University or either of the two Yakima technical colleges. Additional passengers have included employees, seniors and disabled citizens that are using the service to commute to their jobs, to medical facilities or for recreation.

CWA Operations:

Operations and logistics for this service will be tracked independently from our Airporter Shuttle service. The commuter service will have a unique fleet, driver pool and operations back end (operating & passenger data collection & accounting). We will report on these operations to the city of Yakima, who will report to both the Washington State and Federal DOT's. Passengers will pay \$5/ride or approximately 30% of the cost. Grants from the WSDOT, the City of Yakima and Central Washington University will provide the balance of the funding.

Request:

This commuter contract is largely funded by a grant from the Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT). Under RCW 81.68.015 service that is funded by a grant that is issued by the DOT and is otherwise in the public interest can be granted forbearance from rate regulation. As such CWA is requesting that the Commission grant us this forbearance with an effective date of June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Sincerely

Richard Johnson