

January 1, 2008

Governor Gregoire
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Passenger ferry service between Port Townsend and Seattle

Dear Governor Gregoire,

I want to thank you for your decision to place the passenger service between Port Townsend and Seattle. I am a long time resident of Port Townsend (over 30 years) and appreciate your stepping in to help the retailers of our small town. It has made a noticeable difference. And those of us who commute to Seattle for work have been much relieved to get off the hazardous stretch between Port Townsend and Bainbridge Island.

I would now ask that the service be maintained past this holiday season. It has incredible to spend 90 minutes on a boat working rather than 90 minutes driving to Bainbridge and fighting the traffic on the island. (Though the island is roughly six miles long it can take up to 45-60 minutes to get across the island due to the heavy commuter traffic.) I would gladly pay an increased WSF rate to have an alternative to the stress of driving, and the cost of parking, fuel, wear on the vehicle.

I understand that it may be unrealistic to think this ferry run would be able to break even financially. However, I wonder if any state ferry, bridge, or highway currently pays for itself?

Below are some suggested changes to the schedule that would better meet the needs of our community. This shaves one round trip per day saving fuel and vessel maintenance just as is working on the Seattle-Vashon passenger service. In addition, if WSF were instructed to implement the safety and security plan to increase the passenger capacity to 350, the costs per trip would also be reduced.

To Seattle:

Lv. PT	Arv. Kingston	Lv. Kingston	Arv. Seattle
6:25	7:20	7:30	8:00
10:00	10:55	11:05	11:35
2:10+	3:05+	3:15+	3:45+
5:55	6:50	7:00	7:30
9:50*	10:45*	10:55*	11:25*

To Port Townsend:

Lv. Seattle	Arv. Kingston	Lv. Kingston	Arv. PT
8:15	8:45	8:55	9:45
11:40+	12:30+	12:40+	1:35+
4:00	4:35	4:45	5:40
7:45	8:15	8:25	9:20
11:45*	12:15*	12:25*	1:20*

NOTE : Saturday & Sunday schedules could be changed a bit to reflect a later service start time spaced out over the day, yet should be maintained at a minimum of four round trips on Saturday and Sunday to allow for tourism opportunities with a later evening return trip on Sunday (not as late as the Friday & Saturday schedules though).

It seems obvious from the instant success of the “holiday” passenger service that this ferry service meets the needs of the people of in our region. I hope you will consider keeping the Port Townsend – Seattle passenger ferry in service.

Sincerely,

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