



December 14, 2017

Mr. John Koster
Executive Director
County Road Administration Board
2404 Chandler CT SW, Suite 240 Olympia, WA 98502-0913

Dear John:

I write in strong support of the application by Skagit County for County Ferry Capital Improvement funds for a new all-electric vessel to serve the Anacortes-Guemes Island run.

On behalf of two organizations I represent, we are impressed with the data-driven, deep international research conducted by Skagit County, the political leadership, budget discipline and environmental commitment by the County Commission and the broad based community support for this exciting new technology.

Since 1994, as a private, non-profit transportation policy center, the Cascadia Center has advocated and participated in sustainable transportation initiatives from Vancouver, B.C. to Eugene, Oregon. As a charter member of the Farmhouse Gang of North Sound Communities, we showcased the Skagit electric ferry proposal to regional leaders at the Farmhouse meeting in March and to state and industry leaders in October at the Ferry Conference in Seattle – to positive reactions.

Cascadia also staffs the newly formed ACES NW Network, a private coalition of technology companies co-chaired by Tom Alberg from the Madrona Venture Group and Bryan Mistele from INRIX – a world wide traffic data management company. ACES stands for Autonomous Connected Electric and Shared and we believe the Skagit electric ferry proposal will jump start electrification of marine propulsion in the Salish Sea that saves fuel/maintenance costs and gives a noise break to orcas.

Today I heard Amy Scarton, director of WSFerries brief the Joint Transportation Commission on new initiatives including propulsion conversion to hybrid electric.

Your Skagit County colleagues can make this clean, green and smart vision a reality.

Sincerely,
Bruce Agnew
Director, Cascadia Center



San Juan County Council

RICK HUGHES – CHAIR

District #2

350 Court Street, No. 1, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Off: (360) 378-2898 Direct: (360) 370-7474

December 18, 2017

Mr. John Koster
Executive Director
County Road Administration Board
2404 Chandler CT SW, Suite 240
Olympia, WA 98502-0913

John:

Congratulations on being named Executive Director of the County Road Association Board. I look forward to working with you on CRAB sponsored projects and initiatives.

I am writing to you on behalf of the San Juan County Council to register our strong support for Skagit County's Application for County Ferry Capital Improvement Funds for a new all-electric vessel to serve the Anacortes-Guemes Island run.

The County believes the development of an all-electric ferry here in Washington State is a prime opportunity to show-case new transportation technology; an opportunity that shouldn't be missed. The benefits of an all-electric ferry are manifold when compared to an existing fossil fuel ferry: 1) a reduction in carbon based emissions, 2) positive public perception of electricity as a clean fuel source, and 3) a real world opportunity to study an alternative, and possible replacement, fuel source.

If the new all-electric ferry proves useful and dependable, then there is certainly a good chance that the Washington State Ferry system as well as the other Ferry Districts in the state, will want to learn from Skagit County's innovative experience.

I urge you to take into consideration San Juan County's support for Skagit County's application for capital funding.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Hughes".

Rick Hughes
Chair
San Juan County Council
District #2, Orcas/Waldron Island

Philips Publishing Group

December 4, 2017

County Road Administration Board
2404 Chandler Ct. SW,
Olympia, WA 98502

Dear Board,

I write today in support of Skagit County's effort to replace their 38-year-old Guemes Island Ferry with a more fuel efficient, and perhaps all-electric new vessel.

My company publishes several trade publications for the maritime industry and hosts annual conferences ranging from fisheries to ferries.

At our annual *FERRIES Conference*, held October 19, 2017 in Seattle, we asked Skagit County Public Works Director Dan Berentson to participate in a panel discussion on Ferry Operations facilitated by David Mosely, with Michael Gougherty with Water Emergency Transportation Authority, and Amy Scarton, Assistant Secretary for the Ferries Division of the Washington State Department of Transportation. We were impressed by the county's progress on this ferry project.

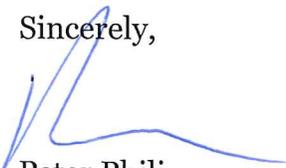
We also hosted Skagit County and other communities at a recent round table on marine transit held last month in Tacoma.

We support Skagit County's innovative approach to replacing their aging vessel and their willingness to embrace new technology and network with industry leaders.

With this funding, Skagit County would be well on the way to a cleaner more efficient vessel as well as building momentum for a cleaner and greener future for our marine highways.

Please support Skagit County's grant application.

Sincerely,



Peter Philips,
President

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Jon Hutchings
DIRECTOR**



ADMINISTRATION

CIVIC CENTER
322 N. Commercial Street, Suite 210
Bellingham, WA 98225-4042
Telephone: (360) 778-6200
FAX: (360) 778-6201
www.whatcomcounty.us
JHutchin@co.whatcom.wa.us

Dan Berentson
Director of Public Works
Skagit County
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

RE: Support for CFCIP proposal

Dear Mr. Berentson,

The purpose of this letter is to express Whatcom County's support for financial assistance to Skagit County's Ferry Replacement Project through the County Ferry Capital Improvement Program (CFCIP).

Whatcom County and Skagit County have similar transportation needs and currently operate similar models of ferry service. We have committed to achieving greater service stability and better pricing of system improvements by maintaining close alignment and coordination. We expect future benefits of improved interoperability to include mutual aid agreements for emergency operations, leveraging better pricing for back up ferry services during dry dock and other maintenance outages, enhancing local technical knowhow for new ferry technologies, and sharing operational knowledge.

With these expectations in mind, our respective ferry system managers intend to leverage cost benefits for planned vessel replacements. Like Skagit County, Whatcom County is currently reviewing service levels and assessing needs in anticipation of upgrading its ferry and docking systems during the next ten years. We are positioning to apply for County Road Administration Board CFCIP in 2021.

Whatcom County looks to continue a strong partnership with Skagit County and the County Road Administration Board as we examine how to cost effectively recapitalize our local ferry service. That partnership relies heavily on shared knowledge and resources. We welcome and strongly support CFCIP funding to move Skagit's replacement program forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Hutchings", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jon Hutchings,
Whatcom County Public Works Director