STATE REPRESENTATIVE 17<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT VICKI KRAFT State of Washington House of Representatives

CAPITAL BUDGET
RULES
STATE GOVERNMENT



December 20, 2018

Governor Jay Inslee Office of the Governor PO Box 40002 Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee,

I am writing to request that you do not require light rail, light rail capable, or mass transit on any transportation project in Clark County, WA – including the proposed I-5 bridge replacement project.

The voters of Clark County have opposed mass transit on the ballot as recently as 2013. Elected officials must listen to and respond in accordance with the voters' wishes.

There is no real demand for mass transit in Clark County as proven by the 2017 C-Tran (Transit Agency) Annual Financial Report, which shows only 10% of their funds come from ridership. Out of the total transit agency's funding of \$66,389,980 - only \$6,857,096 was paid by riders. That leaves 90% of the transit agency's operations being subsidized and paid for mostly by the taxpayers in the form of sales tax, state and federal funds.

Moreover, demand in Washington is still primarily for additional road infrastructure, not mass transit. In June 2018, Pemco Insurance Company had a survey conducted by FBK Research. They surveyed 600 Washington and 600 Oregon residents who were not Pemco Insurance customers. When asked what their preferred method of transportation was to commute to work, 94% said they prefer to drive. They noted it was faster and more convenient than other modes of transportation.

What is truly needed at this time to reduce traffic congestion on the I-5 corridor in Clark County and the Portland metro region is a 3rd bridge or connector between Southwest Washington and Oregon. I ask you to stop pressing mass transit on our citizens and instead support a 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge for the benefit of our commuters, freight community, and statewide commerce.

Sincerely,

Cc: U.S. Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler

Cc: U.S. Senator Patty Murray Cc: U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

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