



August 22, 2013

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

We have a transportation system that is suffering from a lack of maintenance, upkeep, growing congestion and reduced freight mobility. If we want to protect our economy and retain and grow our state's job base, this state of inaction cannot continue.

We are already seeing our manufacturing hubs and our ports lose market share, based at least in part on a lack of transportation infrastructure investment. The investments by other ports across the nation, along the West Coast, and in British Columbia, are just one recent example.

Many of those ports have been investing hundreds of millions, if not billions in infrastructure improvements in anticipation of the opening of the widened Panama Canal. At the same time, while stakeholders across the state have come to a consensus on the importance of completing State Highways 167 and 509, the state has yet to act. The major freight corridors of the second largest warehouse and distribution center on the West Coast must be repaired and brought up to modern truck standards. Roads for commute and transit must be prepared for the jobs of the future that can be ours if we act.

We must remember that our ports are the key to our position as the most trade dependent state in our Union. The widened Canal will open soon and states and provinces from Canada to Mexico and from the Gulf to New York are already moving on strategies to support their ports that threaten to take our businesses and jobs in the future.

If these losses materialize, we will not have the business activity to generate the tax revenue needed for schools, public safety, and other critical public services. We must act now. Our state is already behind and our engineers fully admit that if we get a transportation package approved today it will be years before a project is started. We don't have time to waste. Additionally, our local roads continue to deteriorate and local transit agencies are being forced to make significant service cuts because of mounting funding shortfalls. If these service cuts continue they will detrimentally impact our

economy by creating barriers for transit-dependent riders to get to work and school, and by slowing the speed of traffic and the shipment of goods by forcing more cars onto our roadways.

Governor, we need your leadership to avert this economic emergency crisis. The members of valley cities and ports ask that you work with legislators to craft a bi-partisan transportation funding package as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

CITY OF ALGONA



David Hill, Mayor

CITY OF FIFE



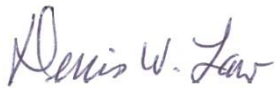
Dave Zabell, City Manager

CITY OF PACIFIC



Leanne Guier, Mayor

CITY OF RENTON



Denis W. Law, Mayor

CITY OF TUKWILA



Jim Haggerton, Mayor

PORT OF TACOMA



Dick Marzano, Commissioner

CITY OF AUBURN



Peter B. Lewis, Mayor

CITY OF KENT



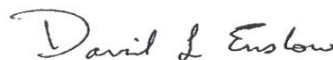
Suzette Cooke, Mayor

CITY OF PUYALLUP



Rick Hansen, Mayor

CITY OF SUMNER



David Enslow, Mayor

PORT OF SEATTLE



Bill Bryant, Commissioner