



U.S. House of Representatives
750 Anderson St. Ste. B
Vancouver, WA 98661



Washington State Legislature
Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

December 19, 2018

Governor Jay Inslee
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

We are writing to ask you to help keep mass transit alternatives to light rail on the table during negotiations on any I-5 bridge project over the Columbia River.

We all agree on the pressing need to address the congestion and safety issues at the current I-5 bridge, and it's imperative that we all work together on a long-term solution that both sides of the river can support. While we are encouraged that your proposed FY 2019-2021 budget contains funding to restart the planning process for a Columbia River bridge project, we are dismayed to find that the proposal also contains a statement that any new bridge *will* include light rail, with no consideration of alternative transit options.

The voters of Clark County have had three opportunities to weigh in on light rail, most recently in 2013. Each time, the pro-light rail side of the issue was soundly defeated¹. We owe it to those we serve to represent their preferences in negotiations over any future I-5 bridge project.

It's not just faithful representation that demands we remain open-minded to transit alternatives, it's also practical politics for those of us who actually want to solve the problems on the I-5 corridor. The Columbia River Crossing project failed in large part due to the insistence of politicians and bureaucrats that the new bridge bring Oregon's light rail system into Clark County, despite the demonstrated lack of support from the County's voters. Those who refuse to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

We were encouraged by your statement to *The Columbian* newspaper that you are "not foreclosing on other alternatives" and we hope you will further elaborate on your position to clarify that you are open-minded on the topic.

Sincerely,

¹ November 5, 2013: Clark County Advisory Vote No. 1; November 6, 2012: C-TRAN Proposition No.1; February 7, 1995

Jaime Herrera Beutler

U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler,
3rd Congressional District

Lynda Wilson

Sen. Lynda Wilson, 17th Legislative District

Ann Rivers

Sen. Ann Rivers, 18th Legislative District

John Braun

Sen. John Braun, 20th Legislative District

Paul Harris

Rep. Paul Harris, 17th Legislative District

Brandon Vick

Rep. Brandon Vick, 18th Legislative District

Richard DeBolt

Rep. Richard DeBolt, 20th Legislative District

Ed Orcutt

Rep. Ed Orcutt, 20th Legislative District