DATE

The Honorable Kim Schrier

Member of Congress

1123 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Support for Kittitas County, WA – I-90 Widening from Easton to Cle Elum**

Dear Congresswoman Schrier:

On behalf of [insert agency or organization’s name], I write in full support of federal investment in the Interstate 90 (I-90) Widening Project from Easton to Cle Elum, Kittitas County’s highest transportation priority.

Washington’s critical east-west I-90 Corridor connects Puget Sound's deep-water ports, large population centers, and retail and service businesses with educational, agricultural, and recreational areas in central and eastern Washington. In addition, I-90 provides emergency access for wildfire crews and medical services, which are virtually unavailable between North Bend and Ellensburg.

The Washington Department of Transportation has led the effort to increase traffic efficiency along the I-90 Corridor, but additional investment is needed to complete work on the entire corridor. Traffic moves from three lanes of highway to two lanes of highway just after passing over the summit. This causes significant congestion along the entire corridor. In addition, the I-90 Corridor is prone to shutdowns caused by weather or emergency events which only exacerbate the congestion problems. Unfortunately, there is no alternative route from Ellensburg to North Bend. We must work together to ensure investment in the corridor continues, resolving traffic and public safety issues on both the western and eastern slopes of the corridor.

[Insert information about the impact of the project on your organization or business OR use the paragraph highlighted below.]

The I-90 Widening Project from Easton to Cle Elum includes the widening of I-90 from Easton to Cle Elum (Exit 70 to Exit 85). The project will continue to address the issues seen along the I-90 Corridor and enhance the benefits of the local, state, and federal investments to date. Specifically, the project will reduce congestion, improve safety on the freeway and local roadways, reduce conflicts with wildlife, support movement of freight and goods to Seattle regional ports, and improve the ability for mass evacuation from Metropolitan Seattle area communities during emergencies as well as evacuation from wildland fires east of the Cascades. The project will span 15 miles along I-90 and is expected to cost a total of $900 million over the next 12 to 13 years.

Thank you for your consideration of our needs and for your continued leadership in Congress on issues of importance to Kittitas County.

Sincerely,

DATE

The Honorable Patty Murray
Member of Congress
154 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Support for Kittitas County, WA – I-90 Widening from Easton to Cle Elum**

Dear Senator Murray:

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Sincerely,

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The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Member of Congress

511 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

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