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ANDERSON ISLAND CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD

April 25, 2006

Mr. John W. Ladenburg, Pierce County Executive  
930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 737  
Tacoma, Washington 98402-6628

Dear Mr. Ladenburg;

I am delighted to write today in response to your letter of last month in which you advocated the promotion of walk-on traffic on the Anderson Island ferry. Your suggestions were resonant with my own thoughts about the future expansion of the ferry service as demand rises. I presented these ideas at the last AICAB meeting and found unanimous support for walk-on ferry service with one proviso: parking and transit in Steilacoom limits the pedestrian use of the ferry. Parking is controlled by the town of Steilacoom and is not only highly restricted, but prohibitively expensive. Resourceful commuters have discovered hidden spots around town in which to park, unfortunately resulting in a general nuisance to the townspeople. The substantial size of the McNeil Island work force (all of whom are walk-ons by necessity) in addition to the seasonal increase in vacationers visiting Anderson Island during the summer months, overwhelm the already limited available parking. The PC Transit bus does not meet the ferry, and as a consequence remains unused.

The members of the Anderson Island Citizens' Advisory Board passed a motion to request that you enter negotiations with the Steilacoom Historic School District #1 for the purchase of all or part of Pioneer Middle School grounds which will become surplus next spring. This land should be utilized as parking for AI commuters and some McNeil Island employees, greatly reducing the current parking problems affecting the town of Steilacoom. Land requires relatively little maintenance, and it doesn't suffer depreciation as do the waterborne parts of the ferry system. It will appreciate along with the rest of the Puget Sound near shore, and a simply designed parking facility will replace an extremely expensive increase in ferryboat hardware and operations to meet summer demand and future growth by encouraging pedestrian use of the ferry system.

On another matter, The AICAB has voted to request that Anderson Island be removed from the Key Peninsula Island Basin Surface Water Management Area. We have little or no surface water on the island and should not be taxed at the combined rate needed for the mainland management projects proposed. We have reviewed the current list of projects proposed and are convinced that benefits are limited for the Island. We are unwilling to pay for Gig Harbor's water improvements.

Sincerely,

Peter Seto, Vice-Chair, Anderson Island Citizens Advisory Board