

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

June 22, 2017

Mr. Matthew J. Welbes
Executive Director
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Welbes,

I support Kitsap County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority's (Kitsap Transit) application for a Low or No Emission grant. Funding from this program will allow Kitsap Transit to accelerate the deployment of zero-emission buses in their fleet that serves riders along the Kitsap Peninsula with connections to Washington State Ferries, Pierce and King counties.

Kitsap Transit transports approximately 4 million riders annually and provides a diverse customer base crucial transportation to improve their quality of life. The new Bremerton to Seattle passenger-only Fast Ferry service launches next month which will quickly connect riders from Kitsap County to King County. Additional services are scheduled to be added in two other locations connecting Kingston and Southworth to Seattle within three years. It is anticipated that these new services will require increased transportation support to meet community customer needs.

Kitsap Transit is committed to promoting energy conservation, enhancing healthy communities, and protecting the environment. As part of that commitment, Kitsap Transit has taken great steps to reduce their fleet emissions by adding twenty-seven propane gas vehicles in its fleet. Kitsap Transit recently procured a 40-foot electrified transit bus to ensure successful deployment of its zero-emission public transit fleet. The electric buses will serve routes that make direct connections to Seattle via the Washington State Ferry and reduce harmful emissions otherwise caused by conventional diesel powered transit vehicles.

Federal funding would ensure replacement of an additional two electrified zero-emission heavy-duty buses, further supporting Kitsap Transit's operational objectives with statewide goals to use alternative fuels for transit.

I ask for full and fair consideration of Kitsap Transit's application to the Low or No Emission Program.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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