



January 10, 2008

Honorable Doc Hastings
1323 Longworth House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hastings:

Interstate 90, Washington's primary transportation corridor through the Cascades, is over-capacity and rapidly deteriorating. This roadway is especially critical to the economy of Kittitas County – it is how most goods reach us and how our products reach markets and ports in western Washington. It is also how tourists and most Central Washington University students arrive here, and it is vital to the success of the new Suncadia resort near Roslyn.

The Washington State Legislature has recognized the importance of widening and rebuilding I-90 by appropriating \$525 million toward a first phase of construction for five miles extending east from the Pass. However, the Department of Transportation has designed a slightly different Phase 1 that extends six miles in order to complete critical construction along Lake Keechelus, address additional safety and environmental measures, and better prepare roadwork for a future phase that will complete the entire 15 miles of the project.

There is a \$29 million funding shortfall between what the Legislature appropriated and the six-mile Department of Transportation proposal, and we request your leadership in securing funds in the next highway bill to close this gap.

Please let us know how we can help you move this project of statewide significance forward.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Strand".

Debbie Strand
Executive Director
Economic Development Group of Kittitas County

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Barkley".

Ted Barkley
City Manager
City of Ellensburg



Ron Cridlebaugh
Executive Director
Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce



Rich Corona
Vice President for Business & Financial Affairs
Central Washington University



Mark McClain
Chair, Kittitas County Board of Commissioners



David Bowen
Kittitas County Commissioner



Alan Crankovich
Kittitas County Commissioner

cc/ Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, Representative David Reichert