Petition for Fair Ferry Fares

Lummi Island Work Group

This is a crucial time to prevent ferry rates from increasing unfairly!

The Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee (LIFAC) and the County Council have before them proposed amendments from Public Works that were intended to clarify some sections. Although a few positive clarifications have been included, other updates do not solve critical and confusing issues, leaving **fare determination** open to **significant misunderstandings**. One significant change to the definition of Operating and Maintenance Costs and Capital would make it easier to charge our fare box for certain Capital costs that could result in future deficits and higher fares.

Several months ago, Public Works (PW) miscalculated an alleged deficit in our fare box of more than $1,000,000, which led to a proposed 35% fare hike and proposed amendments to the code governing the LI Ferry System (WCC 10.34). The Lummi Island Work Group provided documentation that resulted in PW withdrawing the proposed fare hike on April 25th; PW should now also **withdraw their proposed ordinance amendments** as well.

Public Works' proposed code changes will allow the draw-down of excess fares, application of that revenue to future operations costs, and increasing fares to cover any future deficit. This would result in fares covering more than 55% of the adjusted operating cost.

The Lummi Island ferry fare box reserve has a healthy surplus right now. There is no urgency to increase ferry rates or to change the ferry system code at this time.

More information and details will be available soon on ourlummiisland.org - look for the Lummi Island Work Group (LIWG) section under the Committees tab.

Let's take time to get it right!

We the undersigned Lummi Island ferry riders request that Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee (LIFAC) recommend to the County Council that the pending amendments to Code 10.34 be withdrawn by Public Works. And whether LIFAC takes such action or not, we request that the County Council reject those proposed amendments when they meet on June 20, 2023.

Name _____ Address _____

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