



Community Transportation Association of the Northwest

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"Promoting mobility options through collaboration, education and advocacy"

July 22, 2015

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

Derek Kilmer of the United States House of Representatives recently wrote, "As the backbone that supports our local and regional economy, an efficient transportation system allows commuters and visitors to travel to work and school, participate in recreational activities, and provides our seniors and veterans with access to health care and other vital services..."

We agree.

Community Transportation Association of the Northwest is a membership-based organization, encompassing nonprofit, for-profit and public transportation providers, as well as Medicaid brokers, planning organizations, service agencies (such as senior centers), and other partners all specializing in and embracing providing transportation to individuals and families with specialized transportation needs throughout Washington State. Together, our members are responsible for and committed to connecting the most vulnerable people in our communities to resources, services, employment, hospitals, education and more.

Community Transportation Association of the Northwest is grateful to you and the legislature for working together to bring forth new opportunities to our state via the recently signed Transportation Package. Special Needs Transportation and Rural Mobility Grants help to drive our state's economy by ensuring opportunities for people to participate in their communities. As our member agencies and providers know, we must never leave behind brave people who have served our country, retired people who have built our cities, young people who are striving to build a life for themselves, and individuals and families who are working towards their own pursuit of happiness regardless of age, mental or physical ability or socioeconomic status. The opportunities provided in the Transportation Package will have a positive and long-lasting impact on each and every one of us, including our friends, our families, our neighbors and the next generations to come. With the Transportation Package we see:

- Opportunities for more accessible buses and routes;
- Connections to employment, businesses and services;
- Connections to colleges and schools, as well as access to local and state governments;
- Connections to services and resources, including health care and mental health services;
- Better curb cuts, improved accessibility, and ultimately, a better, more efficient and affordable transportation system.

It is our understanding our state's Special Needs Transportation system and the health of our environment have had to be weighed against each other in the Transportation Package as it stands. Community Transportation Association of the Northwest hopes you will find ways to promote a clean and healthy

environment for all of Washington's residents without taking away the new transportation lifelines provided in the state's recently adopted Transportation Package.

Moreover, we hope you have the opportunity to hear from local transportation agencies, Medicaid brokers, senior centers, veteran's affairs offices, social service agencies, transportation planning organizations and others in order to learn more about all of our residents' transportation needs and how special needs transportation connects individuals and families to the communities in which we live, work and play. Further, we hope you and the legislature will be able to develop a plan that both enforces and supports our state's transportation system, while promoting a healthy and clean environment for us and future generations.

In the meantime, we ask that you do not sign a law that could derail the new funding and opportunities for special needs transportation providers and the individuals, families and communities we serve.

On Behalf of the Association,

Colleen Kuhn
President
Community Transportation Association of the Northwest