March 20, 2015

Re: Out of State Truck Traffic

Dear Senator King,

The City of Stevenson, along with all other cities along the Washington/Oregon border, suffers from excessive truck traffic on Washington SR 14 due to a difference in tax methods between the two states. Oregon charges heavy trucks a weight-mile tax. Washington charges a fuel tax. Savvy truckers purchase their fuel in Oregon to avoid paying a State fuel tax, cross one of the bridges to Washington, and travel along SR 14 to avoid paying the weight-mile tax. This results in a large number of Oregon trucks using Washington roads to avoid paying taxes to either state. It results in extra wear and tear on Washington's roads as well as a large amount of non-local truck traffic through Washington border towns like Stevenson.

As you know, State Route 14 is the main street through downtown Stevenson. The large number of unnecessary trucks driving through downtown Stevenson negatively impacts pedestrians and erodes the experience for tourists exploring our beautiful downtown area.

I understand the Washington State Transportation Commission is exploring the possibility of converting from a fuel tax to a road usage charge. Converting to a road usage charge would alleviate the current incentive for Oregon trucks to free-load on Washington roads.

Please do what you can to help with this problem.

Sincerely,

Frank Cox, Mayor
Representative Gina McCabe
431 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

March 20, 2015

Re: Out of State Truck Traffic

Dear Representative McCabe,

The City of Stevenson, along with all other cities along the Washington/Oregon border, suffers from excessive truck traffic on Washington SR 14 due to a difference in tax methods between the two states. Oregon charges heavy trucks a weight-mile tax. Washington charges a fuel tax. Savvy truckers purchase their fuel in Oregon to avoid paying a State fuel tax, cross one of the bridges to Washington, and travel along SR 14 to avoid paying the weight-mile tax. This results in a large number of Oregon trucks using Washington roads to avoid paying taxes to either state. It results in extra wear and tear on Washington’s roads as well as a large amount of non-local truck traffic through Washington border towns like Stevenson.

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Sincerely,

Frank Cox, Mayor
Representative Norm Johnson  
122C Legislative Bldg  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  

March 20, 2015  

Re: Out of State Truck Traffic  

Dear Representative Johnson,  
The City of Stevenson, along with all other cities along the Washington/Oregon border, suffers from excessive truck traffic on Washington SR 14 due to a difference in tax methods between the two states. Oregon charges heavy trucks a weight-mile tax. Washington charges a fuel tax. Savvy truckers purchase their fuel in Oregon to avoid paying a State fuel tax, cross one of the bridges to Washington, and travel along SR 14 to avoid paying the weight-mile tax. This results in a large number of Oregon trucks using Washington roads to avoid paying taxes to either state. It results in extra wear and tear on Washington’s roads as well as a large amount of non-local truck traffic through Washington border towns like Stevenson.  

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Sincerely,  

Frank Cox, Mayor
Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 4002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

March 20, 2015

Re:   Out of State Truck Traffic

Dear Governor Inslee,
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Sincerely,

Frank Cox, Mayor