



CITY OF STEVENSON

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371, Stevenson, WA 98648

State Senator Curtis King, Transportation Chair
305 John A. Cherberg Bldg
PO Box 40414
Olympia, WA 98504-0414

March 20, 2015

Re: Out of State Truck Traffic

Dear Senator King,

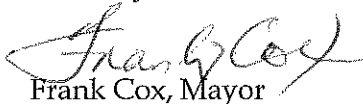
The City of Stevenson, along with all other cities along the Washington/Oregon border, suffers from excessive truck traffic on Washington SR 14 due to a difference in tax methods between the two states. Oregon charges heavy trucks a weight-mile tax. Washington charges a fuel tax. Savvy truckers purchase 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