

## Testimony to the Legislature—Frog Ferry

150 Letters of support link: <https://frogferry.com/support/letters-of-support/>

Link to website: -<https://frogferry.com/>

Hello! My name is Susan Bladholm, and I am here representing Frog Ferry, joined by my colleagues James Paulson and Xavier Stickler.

As a nonprofit dedicated to evolving transit, we are ready — ready to put an electric passenger ferry on the water within three years.

Considering Portland through the lens of urban planning, a ferry just makes sense. Connecting communities from Vancouver, Washington to Oregon City by water isn't just possible — it's obvious. Ferry services are a proven low cost and in demand transit mode for river cities around the world. If we had a nickel for every time we've been told this is a "no brainer," we would have several boats on the water today.

An electric ferry system reduces emissions and tackles the climate crisis; it bolsters emergency preparedness; it provides a solution to declining transit ridership; it creates jobs and enhances livability. Seattle passenger ferries saw a 200% increase in ridership in the past two years.

To date, our organization has provided \$40 million in planning, community engagement, and research with less than 1% of that total coming from public funds. This is our third time bringing a request before this committee— and today, we ask for a one-time investment of \$10 million to launch a pilot ferry program. This month we will apply for a PCEF grant.

Let me be clear: this is a turning point. We will not return with future requests. After eight years it is time for public funding to help launch this new mode of clean, reliable transportation—for our children and grandchildren. We can be remembered for providing the new beloved mode of transit. There is a risk to only funding status quo operations. Let's not miss this opportunity.

Our project connects the dots — of transit, climate, ridership, economic development, resiliency, tourism, jobs, and Fun!

We are ready. Let's put a boat on the water!

Thank you.