

June 17, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

We write in support of your measure to increase the federal percentage share for Capital Investment Grant Program transit projects that have Full Funding Grant Agreements (FFGA). Her legislation, S. 837 the “Public Transit Capital Investment Relief Act”, is greatly needed for two key Sound Transit projects under construction in the Puget Sound region – Lynnwood Link, and Federal Way Link – as well as other similar projects around the country.

A similar, broader provision was included in the original House version of HR 2, the “Moving Forward Act” in 2020 and in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s recently passed surface transportation reauthorization package, the “Invest in America Act”. We hope to see this legislation included in a final infrastructure package that is passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden this year.

Our coalition represents a wide variety of interests – neighborhood organizations, non-profits, major employers, small business owners, transit advocates and government entities – who have been working together for over a decade on the expansion of public transit options for the Puget Sound region. We have come together in support of this issue in order to help keep the momentum going here to provide more public transit options for citizens throughout our entire region.

Over the last 25 years, there has been immense growth throughout the Puget Sound region, and during that period of time, our citizens have approved ballot measures that have resulted in the investment of billions of dollars into the creation and expansion of our high-capacity, multi-modal public transit system. In 2016, Puget Sound voters approved a \$53.8 billion measure that dramatically expands our transit system for communities throughout our region. The pandemic and volatile market conditions threaten that expansion plan, which is why our coalition so strongly supports the effort to increase federal percentage share for those projects with FFGAs. One of the key ingredients to the future growth of our transit system to is recover quickly from the pandemic, and this legislation is a critical component of that effort.

We greatly appreciate the work that you and your colleagues are doing to address our nation’s infrastructure needs, and hope that as part of your work, you will include this important provision in any final federal surface transportation authorization or infrastructure package.

Sincerely,

Members of the Mercer Stakeholders Group

Michelle Bufano
Executive Director

Chihuly Garden and Glass

Erin Goodman
Executive Director
SODO Business Improvement Area

Matt Griffin
Managing Partner
Pine Street Group

Lauren Hackett
Chief Operating Officer
Allen Institute

Ada Healey
Chief Real Estate Officer
Vulcan Inc.

Jeffrey Herrmann
Managing Director
Seattle Rep

Jonathan Hopkins
Executive Director
Seattle Subway

Rick Hooper
President
Uptown Alliance

Lisa Dixon Howard
Executive Director
Alliance for Pioneer Square

Alex Hudson
Executive Director
Transportation Choices Coalition

Kathleen Barry Johnson
Executive Director
Historic South Downtown

Rob Johnson
VP – Sustainability and Transportation
Seattle Kraken

Martin Henry Kaplan, AIA
Founding Member of Uptown Urban Design
Framework Committee

Former Land Use Chair Queen Anne Community
Council

Kevin Malgesini
Managing Director
Seattle Children's Theatre

Tom Mara
Executive Director
KEXP

Shawna McMahon
President
South Lake Union Community Council

Stan McNaughton
President & CEO
PEMCO Insurance Company

Ellen Monrad
Chair
Queen Anne Community Council

Tom Norwalk
President & CEO
Visit Seattle

Guy Palumbo
Director, Public Policy
Amazon

Lora Radford
Executive Director
West Seattle Junction Association

Christina Scheppelmann
General Director
Seattle Opera

Jon Scholes
President & CEO
Downtown Seattle Association

Ron Severt
Chief Executive Officer
Space Needle, LLC

Monisha Singh
Executive Director
Chinatown-International District Business
Improvement Area

John T. Slattery, Ph.D.
Vice Dean, Research and Graduate Education
UW Medicine

Rachel Smith
President & CEO
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

Mike Stewart
Executive Director
Ballard Alliance

Ellen Walker
Executive Director
Pacific Northwest Ballet

Eugene Wasserman
President
North Seattle Industrial Association

H.S. Wright III
Chair & Founder
Seattle Hospitality Group

Jane Zalutsky
Executive Director
Seattle Center Foundation