



## Washington State Legislature

February 4, 2013

Rear Admiral Keith Taylor, Commander  
Thirteenth Coast Guard District  
Jackson Federal Building  
915 Second Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98174-1076

Dear Rear Admiral Taylor:

As Washington state legislators that represent Southwest Washington, we are asking for your consideration in requiring a much higher clearance under the proposed new Columbia River Bridge. The proposed clearance of 116 feet prevents many of our current waterway users from continued use of the river and severely restricts the possibility of any future growth. This impact will be felt for the next 80 years. In your letter to Paula Hammond and Matt Garrett dated September 10, 2012, you stated, "If the application contains any defects that would prevent issuance of a permit (as for example, if the proposed bridge provided insufficient clearance), the applicant is notified that the permit cannot be granted and given reasons for the determination."

Additionally, the CRC Final Environmental Impact Statement, Section 3.2.2, "Existing Conditions" states: "... The USCG, which would approve construction or alteration of the bridges, has stated that navigation conditions cannot be made worse than existing conditions if the CRC project designs are to receive permitting..."

It seems obvious to us that 116 feet of clearance clearly makes the navigation conditions much worse. We need a bridge for the future that allows for the free flow of commerce up and down the river. We do not need a bridge clearance that restricts many of our current users nor one that would negatively impact future needs and uses.

This bridge cannot and should not be the limiting force on the Columbia River. The baseline clearances on the following bridges indicate that 116 feet would be a severe limitation:

I-205 Bridge - 144 feet  
Bridge of the Gods – 140 feet  
Hood River Bridge – 149 feet

We recognize that you have been working with CRC officials to ensure that the bridge will meet the needs of the river users. We look forward to continuing to work with you as we move forward with this process. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Senator Curtis King  
14th Legislative District



Representative Charles Ross  
14th Legislative District



Representative Norm Johnson  
14th Legislative District



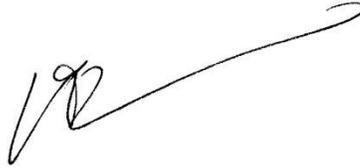
Senator Don Benton  
17th Legislative District



Representative Paul Harris  
17th Legislative District



Senator Ann Rivers  
18th Legislative District



Representative Liz Pike  
18th Legislative District



Representative Brandon Vick  
18th Legislative District