

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



March 8, 2017

The Honorable Frank Chopp
Speaker of the House
Washington State House of Representatives
339C Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Necessary Sound Transit Reforms

Dear Speaker Chopp:

With the implementation of the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) transportation package, families all over King, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties are starting to grapple with the burdensome sales tax, property tax, and vehicle registration fee increases associated with the transportation package. These tax hikes, the motor vehicle excise tax in particular, are causing outrage and fostering resentment across the region.

Families are frustrated with the tax increases opposed by their county and angry about Sound Transit's inequitable implementation of the motor vehicle excise tax increase. We have heard this frustration and anger loud and clear, and we agree with the *Seattle Times* editorial board that Sound Transit and the Legislature should do everything they can to make these tax hikes less burdensome.

In an effort to keep Sound Transit accountable for how it spends the hard-earned dollars of Puget Sound taxpayers, the House of Representatives should pass House Bill 1029, House Bill 1958, and House Bill 2132 as soon as possible. House Bill 1029 will improve the accountability of the Sound Transit board by requiring public election of Sound Transit board members. House Bill 1958 requires that Sound Transit boundary lines be drawn fairly so that no person is taxed without the opportunity to vote on the matter. And finally, House Bill 2132 ensures that motor vehicle valuations are based in reality and that the interest of the taxpayer comes before the desires of Sound Transit. These measures are crucial to the competent administration of Sound Transit 3's \$27.7 billion tax package, and we request the House consider these bills immediately.

Sincerely,



Andrew Barkis
State Representative 2nd District (R)



J.T. Wilcox
State Representative 2nd District (R)



Paul Graves
State Representative 5th District (R)



Jay Rodne
State Representative 5th District (R)



Joyce McDonald
State Representative 25th District (R)



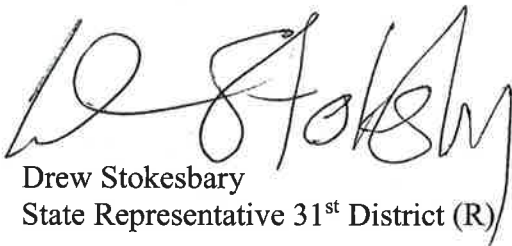
Melanie Stambaugh
State Representative 25th District (R)



Dick Muri
State Representative 28th District (R)



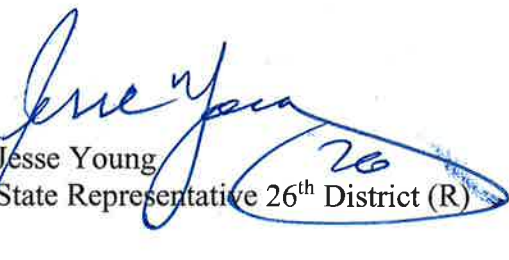
Morgan Irwin
State Representative 31st District (R)



Drew Stokesbary
State Representative 31st District (R)



Mark Harmsworth
State Representative 44th District (R)



Jesse Young
State Representative 26th District (R)



Michelle Caldier
State Representative 26th District (R)