



## Washington State Legislature

May 20, 2019

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Governor Inslee,

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request that you veto a portion of ESSB 5997.

We believe that the conversion of the non-resident sales tax exemption to a remittance program for residents of just five states (Oregon, Alaska, Montana as well as Delaware and New Hampshire) will cost significant amounts of business for retailers near the Oregon and Idaho borders. Because the bill's conversion of the exemption to a remittance program allows only one claim to be made per year, we believe retailers will see significant drops in customers – especially along the Oregon border where retailers report 30-40% of their customers are Oregon residents.

Areas like Longview/Kelso have lost significant retailers in recent years – retailers such as Sears and Macy's. With the change to a remittance program, we are concerned that non-resident shoppers will switch to shopping in Oregon – jeopardizing retailers' ability to keep their doors open for Washington residents.

Forcing non-resident and resident shoppers to travel greater distances to shopping is counter to your goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector and jeopardizes jobs and tax revenue to our state and local municipalities.

We are further concerned that the change to a remittance program will have negative effects on our relationships with legislators in Oregon – at a time when we need to bring Oregon and Washington legislators together to agree upon a replacement span across the Columbia River and future additional crossings. Angering those legislators by angering their constituents will harm our ability to create a cooperative atmosphere needed to resolve this important transportation issue.

Though we are concerned that a deferred findings program and subsequent changes in out-of-state vehicle registration and driver's licensing will lead some Washington residents to switch to shopping in Oregon, we believe this program is an approach that creates fairness and gets more residents who use services in our state and local communities to pay for roads and other services in our state and local communities.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you veto the portion of the bill that converts the non-resident sales tax exemption into a remittance program while still maintaining the deferred findings program language.

Thank you for your assistance in protecting jobs in Washington.

Sincerely,



Ed Orcutt  
State Representative  
20<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Jim Honeyford  
State Senator  
15<sup>th</sup> District



Chris Corry  
State Representative  
14<sup>th</sup> District



Brandon Vick  
State Representative  
18<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Lynda Wilson  
State Senator  
17<sup>th</sup> District



Brian Blake  
State Representative  
19<sup>th</sup> District



Jim Walsh  
State Representative  
19<sup>th</sup> District



Dean Takko  
State Senator  
19<sup>th</sup> District



Andrew Barkis  
State Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> District



Mark Schoesler  
State Senator  
9<sup>th</sup> District



Sharon Brown  
State Senator  
8<sup>th</sup> District



Mike Padden  
State Senator  
4<sup>th</sup> District



Chris Gildon  
State Representative  
25<sup>th</sup> District



John Braun  
State Senator  
20<sup>th</sup> District



Shelly Short  
State Senator  
7<sup>th</sup> District



Joe Schmick  
State Representative  
9<sup>th</sup> District



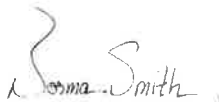
Doug Ericksen  
State Senator  
42<sup>nd</sup> District



Larry Hoff  
State Representative  
18<sup>th</sup> District



Annette Cleveland  
State Senator  
49<sup>th</sup> District



Norma Smith  
State Representative  
10<sup>th</sup> District



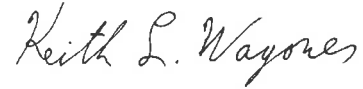
Senator Ann Rivers  
State Senator  
18<sup>th</sup> District



State Representative  
Richard DeBolt  
20<sup>th</sup> District




Gina Mosbrucker  
State Representative  
14<sup>th</sup> District



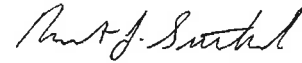
Keith Wagoner  
State Senator  
39<sup>th</sup> District



Carolyn Eslick  
State Representative  
39<sup>th</sup> District



Keith Goehner  
State Representative  
12<sup>th</sup> District



Robert Sutherland  
State Representative  
39<sup>th</sup> District



Jeff Holy  
State Senator  
6<sup>th</sup> District



Mary Dye  
State Representative  
9<sup>th</sup> District



Brad Klippert  
State Representative  
8<sup>th</sup> District



Drew MacEwen  
State Representative  
35<sup>th</sup> District



Bill Jenkin  
State Representative  
16<sup>th</sup> District



Tom Dent  
State Representative  
13<sup>th</sup> District



Vicki Kraft  
State Representative  
17<sup>th</sup> District



Matt Shea  
State Representative  
4<sup>th</sup> District



Mike Volz  
State Representative  
6<sup>th</sup> District



Kelly Chambers  
State Representative  
25<sup>th</sup> District



Jenny Graham  
State Representative  
6<sup>th</sup> District