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(* Executive Committee Member
(X) Ex-Officio {non-voting} Director

November 27, 2019

Chelsea Benner
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N Ruby St., Suite 2
Ellensburg WA 98926

Re: Proposed 24-Hour Love's Travel Stop and Country Store near Lake Easton

Dear Ms. Benner and members of Kittitas County Community Development Services,

We are writing on behalf of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust about the proposed Love's travel Stop and Country Store on the north side of I-90 across from Lake Easton in Kittitas County.

The segment of Interstate 90 between Seattle and Ellensburg in Washington state is a federally-designated National Scenic Byway. Federal, state, local and municipal agencies have invested significantly in land conservation and attractive public infrastructure to ensure that this stretch of interstate highway retains its scenic character. Cities and towns are separated by forest, farms, grasslands and sweeping mountain views. Thanks to the Washington State Department of Transportation, counties, and municipalities, new infrastructure along Interstate 90 is designed with nature-themed retaining walls, wildlife overpass and underpasses, and natural colors whenever possible.

For the new travel stop, we encourage you to request site layout and design plans with a significant buffer of conifer trees between the travel stop and the highway, tasteful signage that is not neon or intrusive, and design to suit the natural character of this rural part of Kittitas County. We hope that visitors to Lake Easton State Park and Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail will still enjoy a tranquil experience in nature.

We appreciate Washington State's need for more truck parking and facilities, especially along Interstate 90, the busiest east-west route in the state. A country store and restaurant at this location may provide amenities to nearby residents as well as to visitors to both state parks.

The Washington State Department of Transportation and State Patrol are seeking to locate a weigh station near Cle Elum. It is our understanding that additional truck parking capacity is needed in Ellensburg. Hundreds of trucks park along the

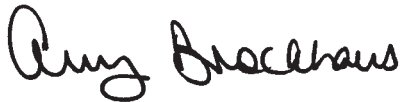


highway in North Bend due to insufficient capacity. We encourage you and county officials – in both King and Kittitas counties - to plan for all this new infrastructure together so that freight needs can be met and balanced with the wishes of local residents and retention of the highway's scenic character.

Would it be possible for us to work with developers of the site to provide input on their design? Please contact amy.brockhaus@mtsgreenway.org or 206.327.1732 with any opportunities to comment, or if we can provide additional information.

Thank you for your consideration for this important project.

Sincerely,



Amy Brockhaus
Deputy Director



Nicky Pasi
Upper Yakima Community Coordinator

Cc: Senator Judy Warnick, 13th District, Washington State
Representative Tom Dent, 13th District, Washington State
Laura Osiadacz, Kittitas County Commissioner
Brian White, Washington State Department of Transportation
Todd Trepanier, Washington State Department of Transportation
Jason Both, Lake Easton and Palouse to Cascades State Parks, Washington State Parks
Scott Griffith, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission