

Jefferson County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Request

To: Board of Commissioners
Philip Morley, County Administrator

From: Frank Gifford, Public Works Director *FG*

Agenda Date: August 5, 2013

Subject: Letters of Appreciation - Murray/Kilmer
Upper Hoh Road Funding

Statement of Issue: Letters of appreciation for Senator Murray and Congressman Kilmer for their support in obtaining Federal Lands Access Program funds for the Upper Hoh Road.

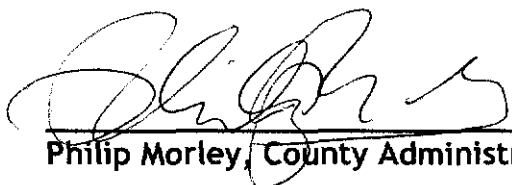
Analysis/Strategic Goals/Pro's & Con's: With the support of Senator Murray and Congressman Kilmer, Jefferson County has sought funding for repairs and protection for the Upper Hoh Road which is subject to frequent washouts from winter storms and floods. Jefferson County was recently notified that it is eligible to receive up to \$11.3 million in funds from the Federal Lands Access Program to be used on the Upper Hoh Road. The Western Federal Lands division of Federal Highways will manage and deliver the projects.

Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis: None for signing these letters of appreciation.

Recommendation: Sign one (1) original of each letter to Senator Murray and Congressman Kilmer and return to the Public Works office. Public Works will mail them.

Department Contact: Monte Reinders, County Engineer 385-9242

Reviewed By:


Philip Morley, County Administrator

8/1/13
Date



August 5, 2013

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
U.S. House of Representatives
1429 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Kilmer,

On behalf of Jefferson County, we are writing to thank you for your ongoing support of our efforts to secure federal funding for repairs to the portion of the Upper Hoh Road leading up to the Olympic National Park. We are extremely grateful for the recent approval for up to \$11.3 million from the Federal Lands Access Program from the Western Federal Lands Highway Division.

As you know, the Upper Hoh Road is the only vehicular access point to the Hoh Rain Forest, a popular destination for tourists from around the state and country. Due to the close proximity of the Upper Hoh Road to the Hoh River, multiple washouts have occurred during severe weather events, at times causing temporary closure of the road, and preventing access to the Hoh Rain Forest and its visitor center. Road repairs have caused a significant strain on Jefferson County's limited financial resources. This grant will go a long way towards mitigating that pressure and maintaining access to a national treasure.

As the House moves forward with consideration of a new transportation authorization bill, we ask your support in maintaining authorization of the Federal Lands Access Program. Reauthorization of the program will ensure Jefferson County's ability to access funds from this decision as they become available through the Highway Trust Fund.

Thank you again for your support of the Upper Hoh Road. Your backing and the assistance of your staff has been a critical factor in our progress to maintain the road and access to the Olympic National Park and Hoh Rain Forest.

Sincerely,

Jefferson County Board of Commissioners

John Austin, Chair

David Sullivan, Member

Phil Johnson, Member

[REDACTED]

August 5, 2013

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

Dear Senator Murray,

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