

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**  
County Courthouse  
311 Grand Ave. Suite #108  
Bellingham, WA 98225



**Pete Kremen**  
County Executive

April 1, 2011

Chair Cliff Cultee  
Lummi Indian Business Council  
2616 Kwina Road  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Cliff:

After meeting with our council in executive session this past Tuesday, I want to review with you where I believe we are in connection with the issue of traffic safety improvements. First I would note that together Lummi Nation and the County have made substantial progress since we restarted negotiations. In the time leading up to resumption of negotiations, Chair Cultee, on behalf of Lummi Nation, noted repeatedly that the remaining issue that needed to be addressed was traffic safety.

- In his letter of January 28 rejecting Whatcom County's offer of January 25, he noted that ". . . it fails to address the concerns regarding traffic safety issues."
- In his letter of February 10, he stated that the amount currently paid to Lummi ". . . does not address the traffic safety concerns that are associated with the ferry."
- In his statement of February 16, he stated that "The County has not seriously addressed traffic safety matters in any of their offers. . . . There is no support for the continued operation of the ferry at Gooseberry Point without substantial and timely safety improvements. . . . The last offer presented to the County [by Lummi] was for a 25-year lease with payments of \$200,000 with an inflation adjustment and \$10 million over 10 years for traffic safety projects."
- In his letter of March 17 agreeing to restart negotiations, he noted: ". . . I cannot meet your request [for suspension of 60-day deadline] without further discussion with you and the other County representatives on some immediate actions to address the traffic safety issues associated with the operation of the Lummi Island Ferry. Please come to our meeting [of March 24] with a list of immediate actions that the county can take to address our safety concerns."

With Chair Cultee's particular concerns on Lummi's behalf so pointedly stated and reiterated, the County came to the table on March 24 and expressed its willingness to commit significant sums of money in addition to the \$7.5+ million spent since 1996 to address Lummi's traffic safety concerns both in the short-term and the long-term. Together that day we worked on a list of immediate concerns that the County could address: 1) provision of flashing speed signs (confirming our earlier commitment in that regard and offering to purchase and place four such signs); 2) reducing speed limits at

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agreed locations; 3) installing traffic calming measures at strategic locations; 4) installation of flashing crosswalk, if desired; 5) traffic queuing measures to relieve congestion and barriers to local access in area of ferry landing. The projects identified would be given high priority on the County's six-year Transportation Improvement Project list and the parties would commit themselves to aggressively pursuing grant funding opportunities to maximize the amount of match that could be obtained. Lummi appeared to be satisfied with those terms pertaining to traffic safety.

As evidenced by the progress recently made, the County has taken seriously Lummi's stated concerns regarding traffic safety improvements. We are hopeful, and respectfully request, that Lummi Nation will, in good faith, either immediately extend, or lift completely, the current deadline in view of the County having met the conditions stated in Chairman Cultee's March 17 letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pete Kremen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pete Kremen  
County Executive

cc: Diana Bob, Staff Attorney, Lummi Nation