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January 20, 2014

The Honorable Roger Wentz, Mayor
City of Union Gap
PO Box 3008
Union Gap WA 98903

Dear Mayor Wentz,

I am writing to express my support of the South Union Gap Beltway / Westside Connector and the South Union Gap Interchange Rebuild Project on I82.

These projects will provide access to the rapidly growing area of Union Gap and South Yakima. With the influx of retail activity, there is a significant amount of congestion around the Valley Mall Boulevard / I 82 interchange and due to safety issues with mixing freight and shoppers in a high retail center area, I believe that this situation needs immediate attention.

Our business has been in this location since 1969, employees over 150 people and supports the Regional Fresh Agricultural and Food Processing industries. The congestion and safety issues surrounding incoming and outgoing freight are a concern to us.

Additionally, both projects provide a direct route to the Yakima Regional Air Terminal, the Yakima armory , and to the growing area of West Yakima. Funding sources for these projects consist of local, state and federal dollars.

These improvements will complete the next phase of the regional transportation system and are crucial to economic growth and sustainability of the current mix of businesses. Both projects are listed as "high priority" projects by the upper Yakima Valley Trans-Action Committee.

You have my support in these projects, and it is my hope that they will be completed in a timely manner.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DL', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Douglas Larsen
General Manager