



MELVIN MARK

EST. 1945

March 27, 2019

Dear Friends of Frog Ferry,

I, along with Melvin Mark Companies endorse the Passenger Ferry Initiative and the work being done by Friends of Frog Ferry to activate our rivers to better connect people in the metropolitan area and foster growth for our region's business community. Our region's transportation needs can no longer be met through traditional street systems, and it is time to return to our river roots and leverage our natural water passageway by providing a new transit option.

Our community's 2035 plan calls for research and focus on waterborne transportation to add to our system of alternative transportation modes. According to the 2017 Jobs and Economy Survey, traffic and congestion are a top concern for Portland residents, with 56% saying congestion is the biggest problem followed by 11% who indicate the biggest concern is uncertainty for how long it will take to get some place by car--totaling 67%.

I personally enjoy traveling by ferry when visiting river cities around the world and understand we are one of the few remaining urban river communities without a passenger ferry service. This effort will take a strong coalition of public and private leadership to bring the vision to fruition. We are committing our support and offer a spirit of partnership to help build momentum behind the initiative.

Sincerely,

Jim Mark, CEO  
Melvin Mark Companies