

UNCORKED

June 21st, 2019
Portland City Council
Portland City Hall
1120 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

Mayor Wheeler and Esteemed City Commissioners:

I am writing you today to express my support of the feasibility studies and research that the Frog Ferry organization is pursuing to understand the economic, transportation, and societal impacts that a ferry system would have in the Portland Metro area.

As a small business owner who lives and works near several of the proposed terminals, I would welcome an alternative means of transport for our current and future employees. Traffic congestion among our streets continues to get worse, and any efforts to reduce our reliance on cars and move towards mass transit will help reduce greenhouse emissions. A ferry system, combined with last mile solutions such as scooters and our BikeTown bike share program, would create an enjoyable alternative commuting option for many of us.

As a frequent traveler to other cities with more established waterways, I often lament the lack of infrastructure and commerce that our city has along its rivers. A ferry might help promote restaurants, water activities, and high density housing projects, all which help raise the prominence of our city as a leader in urban and economic planning. Discovering a city via its waterways creates a lasting memory and affinity for the water whose economic impacts last generations.

Finally, as an avid baseball fan, I've been keeping an eye on the efforts of the Portland Diamond Project to bring Major League Baseball to our city. Their proposed property at the Terminal 2 parcel owned by the Port of Portland currently lacks sufficient transportation access. A ferry terminal at the stadium would enable sports fans from around the region to park and ride into the stadium like fans in the Bay Area, Seattle, Pittsburgh, and Miami. And infrastructure to support a ferry at the baseball stadium might also enable access by other kayakers and pleasure boaters.

I believe that we should invest in the research to understand how Portland can introduce a ferry system to provide equitable access to our city via its waterways.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marcelino J. Alvarez
Chief Executive Officer
Uncorked Studios