

**RESOLUTION NO. 2004-058**

**OPPOSING ANY CONSIDERATION OF A "FOOTHILLS ELEMENT" IN FUTURE  
WASHINGTON STATE COMMERCE CORRIDOR PLANNING**

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation Freight Strategy and Policy Division and the Washington State Legislature considered a financial feasibility study of a massive commerce corridor to be located along the route of State Highway 9, through Whatcom County's South Fork Valley, to be privately constructed and operated for profit; and

WHEREAS, the Commerce Corridor Feasibility Study was designed to see if private parties can build the commerce corridor, even before any technical study or needs assessment for the corridor has been conducted; and

WHEREAS, the Feasibility Study defined the locale for the corridor as Western Washington without first considering how the corridor would fit into the national strategic picture and without first considering the comparative value of aligning the corridor in Central or Eastern Washington; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan places a high premium on protecting and enhancing agricultural lands in Whatcom County, the good health of which would be endangered by construction of the Commerce Corridor as envisioned; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of such a project on wildlife and salmon habitat along the South Fork of the Nooksack River and the Samish River is contrary to other state programs designed to protect salmon and wildlife in these regions; and

WHEREAS, the pastoral setting found in the South Fork River Valley presents a special example of the best places in the Pacific Northwest that represent the highly prized values of aesthetic beauty and unsullied, rural charm cherished by landowners and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, reducing agricultural lands and natural resource productivity contradicts the foothills region's goals of preserving agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the massive size, up to 700 feet wide, of the proposed corridor would have destroyed most communities in its path.

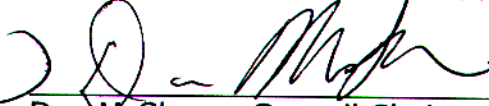
1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council  
2 strongly opposes any future consideration of a "Foothills" segment of the Commerce  
3 Corridor; including opposition to any proposals for expanded rail, highway or  
4 electrical utilities.

5  
6 APPROVED this 26th day of October, 2004.

7  
8  
9  
10  
11 ATTEST

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY WASHINGTON

12  
13  
14  
15 Dan Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

  
16 Dan McShane, Council Chair

17  
18  
19 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

20  
21   
22  
23 Civil Deputy Prosecutor