

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Passenger ferries could save money, help our economy

Staff Reports

Thursday, October 4, 2012

Robert Miller, Bremerton

Ed Friedrich's Oct. 3 article "Combine passenger with car ferries" accompanying the lead story concerning the reprieve that Washington State Ferries has given the Bremerton ferry brings up some extremely valid points.

I know hindsight is always 20/20, but about a year ago I mentioned to co-workers that if WSF really was thinking progressively, they would only offer car ferry service during rush hours and foot ferry service during off-peak times. While this may present an inconvenience to some, there are other ways to get to Seattle if absolutely necessary, and this would address the real problem with WSF revenue, product inefficiency.

As strapped as the ferry system is, operating a full-size car ferry at less than 50 percent capacity for 50 percent of its schedule has to be demoralizing to state accountants. It makes no sense to offer a service that really isn't being fully optimized for efficiency.

Do I even dare say that projected savings from running less than half-full car boats could be used in development of fast passenger ferries that may have the added benefit of enticing people to move into Bremerton, since the Seattle waterfront would only be approximately 30 minutes away, which, by the way, seems to be the most common thread in economic development discussions for Bremerton as a community.

Come on WSF, think about ferry service — not boats.



© 2012 Scripps Newspaper Group — Online