

February 12, 2019

Commissioner Lisa Janicki  
1800 Continental Place, Suite 100  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Dear Commissioner Janicki,

We appreciate your meeting with us today. This letter is to document our request that you pursue arrangements to at least once each month hold a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners in the evening, with public comment opportunity. We believe this will improve the accessibility of county government and make it possible for more people to observe and participate.

We also request that the Board of Commissioners take the following measures to keep residents informed and to engage their involvement in county government and their help in achieving county goals:

1. Task the county's lobbying contractor to periodically report to the public the contractor's activities with federal and state legislators and agency staff on the county's behalf. It would be good to do this, at a minimum, during legislative sessions in Olympia and in Washington, D.C. The format could be a brief report posted on the county website and/or emailed to residents who choose to subscribe. This will improve transparency and help engage the public's interest in the activities of county government.
2. Require the contract lobbyist to give timely notification of opportunities for Skagit citizens to contact legislators in support of county goals. This could be done by email. Elected officials and their staff members often state that they want to hear from constituents. Skagit County could further its goals by adding the power of actual constituents to that of its hired lobbyists. Engagement by a larger and broader segment of the county's population is in itself a worthwhile goal.

Thank you for your attention to these ideas. We hope you will support and implement them and encourage your fellow Commissioners to do so as well. Our contact information is below for your convenience in responding.

Sincerely,

Christie Stewart Stein  
Mount Vernon, WA

Gary Wickman  
Sedro-Woolley, WA

Tim Manns  
Mount Vernon, WA