

Dear _____

I am writing to you to express my vehement disapproval of the proposed tolling of the I-90 bridges. This is a serious issue of fairness, equity and safety.

We are a captive of I-90; without it we can't get on or off the island. If we need to see physicians, if we need to have procedures and if we need to have any kind of advanced medical tests, we have to leave the island. Our seniors can only access many services off of the island. If our children are in certain sports, they have to leave the island every day to practice. If we want access to shopping whether it is for groceries or clothing or to buy numerous items, we have to leave the island.

We choose to live here, we choose to raise our families here and we choose to pay the additional taxes it costs to live here. And now you want to penalize us for it. This was not the understanding when we moved here and this was not the understanding when we voted to support you as our (fill in name of office). How many people would have voted for you if you told them that you were going to tax only Mercer Island residents an additional \$50 per week just for the privilege of living here?

Is it fair that we should be taxed for a bridge that we will almost never use? We're already paying taxes in the form of sales taxes that are supposed to cover expenditures such as this. We're not asking you to reduce our taxes. We're not asking you to only spend our tax dollars on projects that benefit only Mercer Island. We are only asking to not bear a disproportionate penalty tax that no other residents of the Puget Sound region will bear.

We are simply asking for fairness. And we're asking you to live up to your word to represent our interests in the state. How happy would you be to have someone tell you that each time you went to go shopping, went to the doctor, went to visit relatives, went to visit friends, took your children to a museum or simply went to enjoy the environment that we all enjoy, it would cost you an additional \$6 for each visit.

Why would you force children to have to think about \$6 a trip tolls just to visit their parents? For some people, the additional burden of \$6 each visit, especially for aged parents or grandparents, would dissuade them from additional visits. \$40 to \$60 a week to a college student or someone trying to pay back college loans is a significant burden.

Our goal is to increase the diversity of Mercer Island and not everyone can afford a waterfront home. If you tell our teachers, our civil servants and those who are working in our offices and retail stores that they have to pay \$40 or \$60 a week just to come to work, perhaps they won't be able to do so.

I urge you to represent our interests, to work hard for us and to prevent this outrageous tax increase which is aimed solely at us.

Sincerely,