



November 11, 2013

Clark County Board of County Commissioners

Steve Stuart

Tom Mielke

David Madore

**Via: Email**

Dear Commissioners

**Re: "Integrity Resolution"**

In my absence, due to out of town travel, I'm asking that the Board of Commissioners please enter the following testimony into the record.

The six reports Acuity Group issued, regarding our work on the Columbia River Crossing project, have been entered as exhibits to your resolution. I can attest that each of these reports were issued by me. I can also attest that each report contains the following phrase:

*"As a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Fraud Examiner, it is my professional opinion that these questions warrant further investigation by an agency of appropriate jurisdiction."*

The work we performed spanned more than 2 years, countless hours of meeting attendance, and the review of over 30,000 documents. All of the documents we reviewed and relied on came directly from the Columbia River Crossing Project Office, the Washington State Department of Transportation and/or the Oregon Department of Transportation. The purpose of our 6 reports was to report information to you that was contained within these documents but was not being reported to you, other public officials, or the general public by the Columbia River Crossing Project office.

It remains my opinion that there are significant questions involving this project that warrant additional scrutiny.

It remains my opinion that the significant reliance on tolling dollars to fund this project will have significant financial impacts to Clark County. Tolling collection estimates were originally projected to be \$3.0 Billion. The CRC's most recent estimates (March 2013) put that figure in the \$6 Billion to \$10 Billion range. Assuming that Clark County residents were to bear the burden of just one-quarter of those tolls or (\$1.5 to \$2.5 Billion); what impact does that have on the residents you represent, namely their ability to spend discretionary dollars in the County? How would that impact the County's budget?

Additional questions surrounding the CRC project remain, including:

1. Potential Violations of Washington State Open Public Meetings Act (Report #1)
2. Potential Violations of State and Federal Contracting Practices (Report #2)
3. Questionable Contracting Practices, including (Report #2):
4. Cost overruns in excess of \$50 Million on the environmental study stage of the project
5. Potential duplicate work performed by contractors
6. Project Costs outside of the bridge area (Report #3)
7. Significant funding plan discrepancies, including (Report #4):
  - a. Nonexistent federal programs
  - b. Toll requirements of \$3.5 billion – more than \$2.0 billion in excess of promises made to public and legislators
8. Potential violations of IRS code related to persons employed in independent contractor status (Report #5)
9. Discrepancies in excess of hundreds of millions of dollars in costs of interchanges reported to legislators (Report #6)
10. Discrepancies in excess of hundreds of millions of dollars in costs of bridge tear down and rebuild reported to public and legislators (Report #6)

A true and correct copy of my CV (Curriculum Vitae) is also attached, to verify my professional credentials and experience.

If you have questions or comments, I can be reached at 360.573.5158.

Respectfully,



Tiffany R. Couch, CPA/CFF, CFE