



LARRY PHILLIPS
Metropolitan King County Council
District Four

October 17, 2007

Ryan Thurston
FRIENDS
701 N 34th Street #300
Seattle, WA 98103

Dear Mr. Thurston,

As the elected King County Council representative of the neighborhoods surrounding and below the Aurora Bridge in Seattle, Washington, I strongly support your efforts to install a suicide barrier on the bridge. I understand that the Aurora Bridge has the second highest number of suicide jumps in the nation, after the Golden Gate Bridge.

I commend the mission of FRIENDS, a grassroots effort dedicated to reducing suicide jumps from the Aurora Bridge, and have been pleased to support FRIENDS' mission in the past through advocating for their goals with the Washington State Department of Transportation, who manages the state-owned bridge, and for supporting a waiver of King County fees for data your group used to support its goals.

I share FRIENDS' belief that installing a suicide barrier will:

- Deter individuals from committing suicide by jumping off the bridge
- Reduce the overall suicide rate in the area
- Save lives

There is tremendous community support for this critical effort to reduce the number of suicide jumpers from the Aurora Bridge, saving lives.

Sincerely,



Larry Phillips, Councilmember
Metropolitan King County Council, District Four