



WASHINGTON TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS

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Subject: Highway 97 Underpass Support

The Washington Trucking Associations (WTA) is writing this letter in support of the Safe Passage on Highway 97 Project between Riverside and Tonasket, WA.

This 12 mile stretch of highway has over 350 vehicle-deer collisions each year with a societal cost of over \$6,000 per accident. This is close to 2 million dollars per year (maybe more) in vehicle repairs, removal of carcasses by WSDOT, state patrol response, insurance costs, medical bills, and the lost value of the deer for recreational viewing and or hunting. While it is unclear what the cost is directly affecting the trucking industry, we do have several trucks per day traveling this stretch of Highway 97 making this a factor for our industry.

The trucking industry is keenly aware of the millions of dollars per year lost to vehicle-deer collisions, our truckers depend on safe roads and highways to travel. The members of the WTA fully support the Safe Passage on Highway 97 Project and agree it will provide a safer environment for both the public and wildlife, in addition to providing economic benefit to our industry.

We are happy to support the efforts of Conservation Northwest and hope that you will contact us if we can be of further help in your pursuit to secure funding for these projects.

Sincerely,

Sheri Call
Executive Vice President