

SENATOR  
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## Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am hosting town hall meetings in Camas and Ridgefield this Saturday and I would love the chance to meet you and answer any questions you may have. Please see below for all the details.

This interim has been so busy that it hardly feels like we have a part-time Legislature. In past years interim is typically pretty quiet and I am free to meet with constituents, but the time demand is much more this year, and I think it's mostly because we are faced with some seriously high-stake issues such as transportation and education.

Did you know that some legislative committees meet throughout the summer? On Monday I was in Olympia for a *Career Education Opportunities Legislative Task Force* meeting. In fact, I was recently appointed to two new task forces – the *Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee* and the *Joint Select Legislative Task Force on the Economic Resilience of Maritime and Manufacturing in Washington*, which will also meet throughout the interim.

Keep reading for an update on the Bi-state Bridge Coalition (BBC) and my thoughts on the carbon debate in our state.

Thanks for taking an active role in our state government and I hope to see you on Saturday!

Sincerely,

## Town Hall Meetings THIS SATURDAY!

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend one of my town hall meetings this Saturday. I am looking forward to connecting with you and answering questions about this past legislative session. Hope to see you there!

### Saturday, August 16

**10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Camas Public Library  
625 NE 4th Avenue, Camas

**2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Clark County Fire and Rescue  
911 N. 65th Avenue, Ridgefield

# Regional Transportation Update

## IN THE NEWS

Earlier this month, the Columbian ran an article discussing the possibility of an east county bridge and included my thoughts on the topic. Here is a small clip from the article, or you can read the full article [HERE](#).

### Press Talk: 'Bridge-Maker' Ann Rivers?

*“Rivers was labeled the “bridge-killer” after the Columbia River Crossing couldn't get through the state Senate.*

*“But in the end — and only time will tell — Rivers could be known as the bridge-maker. You see, what Rivers is trying desperately to accomplish is a much-needed solution to a major problem: traffic flow across the Columbia River. And to do that, she knows she also has to first build metaphorical bridges with those who felt defeated when the Columbia River Crossing proposal collapsed.*

*“So Rivers — along with State Rep. Liz Pike — has been trying to put together a coalition of players to see if there is some transportation solution across our mighty river that everyone would buy into...”*

## THE BI-STATE BRIDGE COALITION

In order to continue productive discussions about transportation needs in southwest Washington, I've joined together with several other legislators to form the Bi-state Bridge Coalition (BBC). We last met in June and I wanted to provide with you an update on where things stand today.

The next steps...

We hope to have a public and transparent group meeting in early fall. We are working to create and submit a matrix that we'll use to help determine the best project for our region.

My project priorities include:

- Increased freight mobility
- Reduced congestion
- Reduced commute times
- Supports sound economic development

The other legislators on the BBC are developing their ideas about what should be included. A number of projects have already been submitted, but rest assured ALL projects will have a public hearing.

In the meantime, we are focused on restoring relationships between Washington and Oregon legislators to redevelop trust and a common understanding with one another.

## Recognition from Community Organizations

Over the past few months I have been honored to receive four awards for my work during the last legislative session and 2013-14 biennium. I am proud to take a stand for small business owners, communities, the agricultural industry, and early learners in our state.

**Silver Crayon Award** from the Early Learning Action Alliance – for a commitment to protect and grow early-learning programs in Washington. This past legislative session I sponsored a successful bill that expands access to early learning for children in the child-welfare system.

**Municipal Champion** from the Association of Washington Cities – for helping to restore and strengthen the partnership between the state and cities so that communities have the capacity to provide needed services to their citizens. I sponsored two key proposals for cities this past session – one to restore resources to the public works assistance account, and another to reconcile the medical and recreational marijuana markets and share new revenues with cities.

**Friend of Farm Bureau** from the Washington Farm Bureau – is given to state legislators who score 80 percent or higher for votes on a list of bills identified by WFB as being critical to the state's agricultural industry – the second largest industry in Washington.

**Guardian of Small Business** from the National Federation of Independent Business – for consistent support of small-business owners. I am proud to say that I have earned a perfect, 100-percent pro-small-business voting record since joining the Legislature in 2011.

## IN THE NEWS: Public needs voice in carbon debate



The Columbian recently printed an editorial I wrote about the carbon debate in our state. Below is an excerpt from the piece, but you can read the full article [HERE](#).

*“There's enough chatter at the Capitol about a pair of climate-change policies — familiar but complex proposals known as “cap-and-trade” and “low-carbon fuel standards” — that it's time to ask: What do these confusing and complicated discussions mean for the average Washington resident?*

*“Both cap-and-trade and LCFS deal with controlling the production of carbon. The two main sources of carbon emissions are motor vehicles and power plants that generate electricity.*

*“Washington is already a low-carbon place — especially when compared to a carbon giant such as China, which produces around 8,000 million metric tons annually compared to Washington's 96 million. And while China's carbon emissions are on the rise, Washington continues to find ways to reduce our carbon footprint without layering on new costly and intrusive regulations...”*

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### Stay Connected!

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