

From: Millar, Roger
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 5:50 PM
To: WSDOT ALL STAFF
Subject: This afternoon's legislative Senate floor debate and next steps

Please see the message below from Governor Inslee:

Dear WSDOT employees,

Today's vote by Senate Republicans to reject Secretary Peterson's confirmation is a blatant misuse of the confirmation process for political purposes, and their disparaging remarks about her character are absolutely unfitting of the office they hold.

While their shameful act calls into question their ability to govern, it should not distract you from the very important work that you do every day for the citizens of the State of Washington. Nor should it cause you to second guess the many accomplishments that you have achieved under Secretary Peterson's highly capable leadership.

Many Democratic Senators noted these accomplishments in their floor speeches today.

They spoke of your work to begin implementing the new \$16 billion transportation investment package that will provide an estimated 200,000 jobs. They spoke of the way WSDOT crews worked as quickly and as respectfully as possible on the SR 530 landslide to remove 90,000 cubic yards of debris in just 20 days. They spoke of how your team reduced by half the number of missed ferry sailings due to worker shortages. And they spoke of how you and your colleagues built a temporary replacement bridge in just 27 days to replace the Skagit River Bridge over I-5 that collapsed due to a truck collision.

We have come so far, and I have faith that the 7,000 employees at WSDOT will meet this new challenge with the same strength and commitment to service that you've shown so frequently these past few years. We know we still have many transportation challenges in our state - let's not allow the Senate Republicans distract us.

We do not yet have all the answers about our next steps. But if you do have questions, please direct them to your supervisor. WSDOT Deputy Secretary Roger Millar will also be available to answer questions.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee

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