

Rt. 1, Box 261  
Burlington, Washington  
August 28, 1963

The Honorable Jack Westland  
House Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Westland,

The other day I was tuned in to KARI, the Blaine Radio Station, and happened to catch your radio broadcast in which you were interviewing a Corps of Engineers man regarding the Skagit River both from a Navigation and a Flood Control plan.

I was especially interested in your conversation with him regarding the so-called **Avon Cut-off**. I believe you made the statement that it seemed most people back here were favorable to this by-pass since you had not received any mail from those in this area stating they were against this idea.

I've been doing a little digging on this issue and thought you might be interested in some things I've found out. I should first say that **I am quite** prejudiced against it because the plan would cut right through my father-in-law's farm.

However, the Mapes family is not the only ones who are against this plan. It seems that most people above Mount Vernon are opposed to it and those below Mount Vernon feel it would be fine. Of course, this is mostly because the by-pass is above Mount Vernon that they feel this way.

I attended a meeting Monday night in Burlington and I can enclosing the news clipping for your information. At this meeting many people got up to voice their opposition to this plan, calling it a pork barrel spending plan. The most likely plan would be a bond issue and I believe there would be a 6 mill tax on the whole county with an extra 4 mill tax on certain areas.

The people in Burlington just turned down a \$200,000 school bond issue and it would seem to me that if they would turn down an amount such as this, they would surely be against a bond issue amounting to several million dollars.

I was quite surprised at some of the people who spoke out against the cost of this plan. I feel people are in an economy mood and certainly against this government spending spree.

I should add that my father-in-law has been a diking commissioner for approximately 20 years and has lived in Burlington since 1900 and doesn't think the cut-off would be worth what it will cost. The news clipping will give you other drawbacks brought out at the meeting.

The chairman of the Committee for this cutoff is Mr. George Dynes who is a New Dealer. Another man working for it is Willie Lee. Both Mr. Dynes and Mr. Lee took part in the 1936 campaign against Ralph Rickdall in the last election. Mr. Hulbert is also in favor of the cutoff and as you no doubt know, is a Republican. However, I feel the main reason he is in favor of it is because he does live near Conway and his farm land has been in danger in the past from floods.

I talked to Ralph Rickdall regarding this matter and he said Mr. Dynes, Mr. Lee and Mr. Hulbert came down to the Legislature this past session and asked our representatives to work for the cutoff. They did not want to do anything at the present so passed a resolution setting up a committee to study the matter and see if it was feasible.

I hope I have been of some assistance to you in this matter. I surely want you to know there are many people back here who are violently opposed to this plan and as I said previously in my letter, I am against the plan myself.

Sincerely,

Mr. Dan Hayes

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