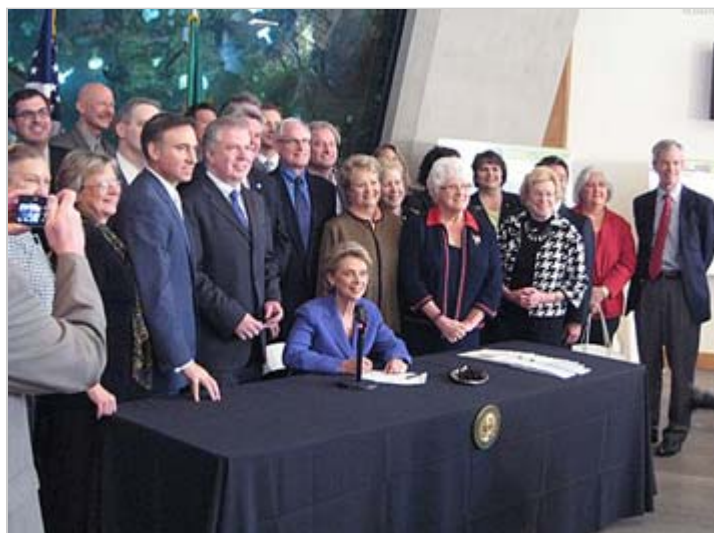


From: Tayloe Washburn [chamber@seattlechamber.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2009 1:54 PM
To: Paananen, Ron
Subject: Message from the Seattle Chamber Chair

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Gov. Gregoire signs the Bored Tunnel bill into law.

Dear Chamber Members:

Earlier this week, **Governor Gregoire** signed the Bored Tunnel bill (SB 5768) into law, ensuring that the Alaskan Way Viaduct will be replaced by a deep bored tunnel under downtown Seattle.

I and many of my colleagues on the Chamber Board were fortunate to witness and celebrate this great event that brings to a close a difficult saga for our region and state, and leaves the risk of further delay and political deadlock behind us.

The Chamber is proud to have played a central role in the stakeholder process and negotiations that led to a Bored Tunnel compromise.



Tayloe Washburn
Chair

YOU'RE INVITED

Refer to our **event calendar** to view all upcoming events.

TUES | May 19

Bill Gates Sr.
at Legends & Leaders
[more info](#) | [register](#)

WED | May 20

Best Places to Work
[more info](#) | [register](#)

FRI | May 22

Toast of Seattle
at Il Fornaio
[more info](#) | [register](#)

THURS | May 28

Tech Thursdays
Paid Search Marketing
[more info](#) | [register](#)

THURS | June 4

Italy Trip Info Session

Every stakeholder gave something up to support the solution, but in the end stakeholders reached something not achieved during the eight years since the Viaduct was shaken by the Nisqually quake: a broad-based consensus about a positive path forward.

We applaud the many elected officials who showed tremendous courage and leadership and helped advance a solution that will benefit all of Washington's residents, not just those in Seattle. State Route 99 is a corridor that moves people and goods from across the state, and the Bored Tunnel will preserve this vital through-put capacity. The Bored Tunnel also avoids the enormous potential negative impact of Viaduct-related construction activity on our regional economy, and allows us in future years to take down the Viaduct and create a world-class open waterfront that we can take pride in, and which will serve as a magnificent setting to attract citizens, visitors and businesses to our city and region for decades to come.

The Viaduct puzzle was deemed insoluble, and yet we found a way to arrive at a viable, achievable solution that makes financial sense, offers by far the greatest value and helps keep the economy moving on one of the state's most important transportation arteries. **Let's apply what we've learned to other major projects and issues perplexing our region.**

Our work is not yet done. We need to continue to support the entire Bored Tunnel Hybrid package which includes completion of the Mercer Corridor project, efficient access for communities north and south of the tunnel, increased transit, and improvements to surface streets and I-5.

Thank you for your support as we finalize this long-term solution that will restore our waterfront and provide the capacity needed to keep our economy prosperous in coming years.

Sincerely,
 Tayloe Washburn
 Chair, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce

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IN THE NEWS

Highlights of recent news coverage mentioning the Chamber:

Seattle Times, 5.13.09
"Seattle should stick with electing council members citywide"

West Seattle Blog, 5.7.09
"Video: 4 of the 5 people who want your vote for County Executive"

West Seattle Blog, 5.7.09
"Video: 4 of the 5 men who want your vote for Seattle mayor"

Seattle Weekly, 5.7.09
"How to Unofficially Run for Mayor"

Seattle Times, 5.8.09
"Jan Drago sure acts like she's running for mayor"

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