

Bradley Gasawski

From: Jen Phillips <phillipsj@easton.wednet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 10:48 AM
To: CDS User; Bradley Gasawski
Subject: Easton Truck Travel Plaza is a complete mismatch to the needs of Easton (pop 640ish)

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Greetings,

I am an 11-yr School Board Director at Easton School. The proposed Truck Travel Plaza raises issue-after-issue, and must be rejected.

* Where are all the water rights coming from? Families here buying lots and homes, have no guarantee of water rights in Easton, when purchasing land. We are going to waste all of these local residential and agricultural water resources on a for profit fossil fuel endeavour?

* 50% of people coming over Snoqualmie Pass, are driving electric cars, where is the necessary infrastructure for vehicles and green transportation?

* North Bend, a city of almost 10,000 people and rapidly growing, with major infrastructure to support overnight truck camping, has closed the Ken's Truck Stop Exit 27, in North Bend, due to how negatively it impacts the community, including trucks illegally parking in the dozens, on:

- on and off ramps of I90 - extremely dangerous to all travelers using the ramps
- in town parking on / blocking roads
- parking on the freeway, close to the travel center

* How are we going to guarantee that this new Travel Center isn't going to charge highway robbery rates for fuel, like both the Easton Shell Station (regularly a \$1.50 higher per gallon) at Turtle Town, and Lee's Summit Chevron (regularly a \$1.00 higher per gallon) at Snoqualmie Pass. I already choose not to use either of those locations, for fueling. We drive to cheaper fuel stations while shopping in North Bend, Issaquah, Cle Elum, Ellensburg.

*Protecting the environment and health of the residents and water of this location could not be more essential. Pollution will spread to Lake Easton, which is used by our Easton School Students for Outdoor Recreation, as much as possible.

*Yakima River is already a plastic pollution nightmare, starting at Snoqualmie Pass.

*Light pollution is unacceptable, especially for a facility of this size, due to migratory birds, bats, and insect traffic and migrations.

*This is the headwaters of the entire Yakima Basin Aquifer, which is extremely leaky, especially in this area of Lake Kachess. Locals in the Easton community have reported flooding of properties for years now. Let's not introduce anymore toxic pollution from tires and burning petrochemicals, into the mix. There are way more less invasive locations, to have this center, than in a small rural community.

*Speaking of invasive, how much drug use will be underway at this facility? Most of the ones I have visited over the years, have to have locked bathrooms and blacklights, due to misuse of bathrooms for drug use by travelers. Will this introduce fentanyl?

*Interstate 90, itself, is falling apart in this section, and unfit for this purpose. Both Easton bridges are crumbling apart from the already heavy construction traffic, age, and neglect. The same issues extend to the overpasses at Cabin Creek and Stampede Pass, to the West, and West Nelson Siding and Golf Course Rd, to the East.

*This stretch of I90, is already a bog down to traffic flow, due to being only two lanes. It regularly backs, from volume, and during crashes on ice and snow, preventing emergency vehicles from moving between Easton, and anywhere else.

*I90 backs up routinely, blocks off residents on both sides of the freeway, creating headaches and uncertainty for school students and staff. We regularly have to come up with back-up transportation plans, due to Easton not having any back-up routes to get around freeway closures.

Why this project should be strongly opposed:

- **Traffic & Concurrency Failure:** The applicant's traffic study is outdated and underestimates trips by nearly **100%**. Independent analysis shows failing LOS (D/F) at the I-90 Eastbound Ramps. The project **fails Kittitas County's mandatory transportation concurrency requirements** under county code.
- **Conflict with County's Own Study:** It sits at the exact starting point of severe seasonal congestion identified in the county's **STEER I-90 Feasibility Study**.
- **Environmental & Water Concerns:** The site is in a **Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA)**. The project includes large fuel storage tanks and a Large On-Site Sewer (LOSS) system. It is only 1,200 feet from Lake Easton and 1,400 feet from Silver Creek, raising serious risks of groundwater contamination and impacts to surface water.
- **Snow & Winter Operations:** Located in a heavy snow zone near Snoqualmie Pass, the project would add hundreds of daily truck and vehicle trips during dangerous winter conditions, increasing accident risks, snow removal demands, and stranded vehicle problems on already strained roads.
- **Emergency Services Strain:** Increased truck traffic, congestion, and turning movements at Exit 70 would overload local emergency response (fire, medical, law enforcement) in a rural area with limited resources, especially during peak summer and winter events.

- **Infrastructure & Community Impact:** The project would accelerate wear on local county roads (W Sparks Road, Lake Easton Road), increase noise and light pollution 24/7, and permanently change the rural, recreational character of Easton near Lake Easton State Park.

This large industrial-scale truck stop is inappropriate for this sensitive rural/recreational gateway location.

Thank you for standing up for our community, safety and environment.

Best Regards,

Jen Phillips

Easton School Board Director, since 2015.

Easton School Parent of High Schoolers, since 2014

Snoqualmie Pass Resident, since 2000