



## Washington State Legislature

January 14, 2019

Washington State Transportation Commission  
PO Box 47308  
Olympia, WA 98504-7308

Dear Commissioners;

It is our understanding that at next month's commission meeting you will be considering a request to rename a section of State Route 530 to honor the victims and communities affected by the SR 530 Slide. As representatives of the area, we are writing to voice our resounding support.

The March 2014 natural disaster had a profound and lasting effect on the communities in the Stillaguamish Valley. The scarred hillside, which exists today, serves as a constant reminder of the devastation this community suffers. More than 43 lives were lost that fateful day, as the ripple affect sent shockwaves throughout Washington State. What was born out of this tragedy is a testament to the resiliency and the resolve of this small, riverfront community.

If you drive this section of State Route 530, you will see signs declaring the area "**Oso Strong**". The term signifies that that out of the trials and loss, the community will rise up and push forward. We will never forget the lives lost, the homes that were destroyed, and the manner in which the community, county, state, and federal government worked together to recover. **Oso Strong** is more than just a phrase. It is a feeling, a belief, and a reminder.

We would encourage the Commission to recognize the importance of the request to rename a section of State Route 530. This gesture is a step forward in binding the wounds of March 22, 2014 and we add our support to Snohomish County's resolution (Joint Resolution No. 18-037), the Stillaguamish Valley community, and the SR 530 Memorial Committee in their request to rename a portion of State Route 530.

Thank you for your consideration,

Keith Wagoner  
State Senator  
39<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Carolyn Eslick  
State Representative  
39<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Robert Sutherland  
State Representative  
39<sup>th</sup> Legislative District