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JERRY T. VERKLER, STAFF DIRECTOR

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 22, 1974

Honorable Gordon Johnston  
Mayor of Tacoma  
Tacoma, Washington

Dear Gordon:

I appreciate receiving your recent letter in which you brought to my attention the City of Tacoma's efforts to complete the connection from Interstate 5 to the downtown and port industrial area.

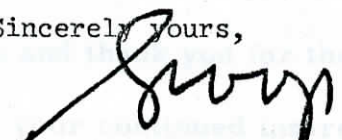
My office has been informed that the regional director of Region X of the Federal Highway Administration, Mr. Louis Lybecker, is in favor of this project; nevertheless, there is presently not enough mileage available for redesignation; it is all currently channeled into predesignated areas. The FHA did say, however, that your proposal was being held for consideration.

Another matter which has been brought to my attention is the possible damage that could occur to certain areas of historical significance: the Tacoma Hotel, Chinese Tunnel, and a graveyard of the Puyallup Indians. I would hope that these matters could be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

I understand your concern, Gordon, about the need for the Tacoma Spur. For this reason I will watch the progress of your proposal very closely.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

  
Henry M. Jackson, U.S.S.

HMJ:jv

August 28, 1974

The Honorable Henry M. Jackson  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Scoop:

Thank you very much for your letter indicating your support of the Tacoma Spur project. Your intervention with the Federal Highway Administration certainly will be very helpful. I am sure the expansion of our Port caused by the pipeline development in Alaska will add some impetus to the construction of this project.

The problems that you raised about the Tacoma Hotel (which burned down during my youth), the Chinese tunnel--which we are really not sure if there is one and where, and the Indian graveyard are really outside the concern of the project we are talking about. The first two items are in the area where we are presently constructing the Tacoma Spur which is an urban arterial project which will be completed in 1975. The second one is again outside the project area for the Tacoma connection with Interstate 5 and certainly will not be affected by it in anyway.

I do appreciate your concern and thank you for the support you have already given us. I look forward to your continued interest in this project.

Sincerely yours,

GORDON N. JOHNSTON  
MAYOR

GNJ/ds