

DeLaRosa, Stephanie (PUC)

From: Jessica Gallagher <jessicahagopian@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 1:45 PM
To: DeLaRosa, Stephanie (PUC)
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Prudence Island Ferry Rate Increases

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Hello Stephanie:

I am writing to respectfully oppose the proposed rate increases for the Prudence Island ferry. As a single mother of two children, finances have always been something I have had to carefully consider. Traveling to Prudence Island has allowed my children and me to spend time with our family, stay connected to the island, and create meaningful memories together.

We have relied on commuter passes to make frequent trips back and forth to the island. If my family made just 20 trips in a year—which I believe is actually an underestimate—the cost under the proposed rates would approach \$1,400 in ferry tickets alone. For my family, that is a significant financial burden and could make regular visits nearly impossible.

These trips are about much more than recreation. My parents live on Prudence Island for approximately six months of the year, and as they age, they increasingly rely on their children to help maintain their home, get groceries, and take care of household needs. Being able to travel to the island regularly allows me to support my parents while also giving my children valuable time with their grandparents and extended family.

Having to worry about whether I can financially afford to get to my own family does not feel fair. I understand that the ferry company needs to operate sustainably and cover its costs, but the proposed increase feels dramatic and would place a particularly heavy burden on families who depend on frequent travel.

I hope consideration will be given to reducing the proposed increases and preserving a reasonably priced commuter option. The ability to make frequent trips is an important part of keeping families with longstanding ties to Prudence connected to the island and to one another.

Prudence Island is much more than a destination for my family. It is part of our family history, a place where my children have built relationships and memories, and a place where they can stay connected to their grandparents. I sincerely hope the final rates will recognize the importance of keeping the island accessible to the families who have made it such an important part of their lives.

Thank you for considering my concerns and the very real impact these proposed increases will have on families like mine.

Sincerely,
Jessica Gallagher