

“Thank you for the opportunity to address this. It seems there may be some misinformation floating around, and I appreciate the opportunity to assuage continuing concerns about perceived conflicts of interest.

Our aim is not to build and operate an electric ferry. **My mandate is to have King County fund and operate passenger vessel service between Des Moines and downtown Seattle.** Artemis involvement in that operation is not our concern, nor do I personally have any financial interest in their involvement.

Artemis may be a ‘potential builder/operator for the future Des Moines passenger service’. But they will not build the boat for Des Moines, nor will we operate it. Any boat Artemis may build will be built and operated by a third party: perhaps to serve Des Moines, but not necessarily to serve Des Moines.

Our intent is to have King County fund and operate service to Des Moines, at no cost to Des Moines. It is solely King County’s decision whether they choose to build a boat or buy one already in existence, or operate a boat already in their fleet. And it is King County’s decision whether any new boat they may build is electric.

The connection between Des Moines and Artemis, and my role in that connection is to encourage Artemis to locate their US production facility here, providing local jobs, and investing in local workforce development. To that end I have had discussions with Representative Orwall to enlist her support of that effort. Upon learning of Representative Orwall’s trade mission to Ireland, and her desire to strengthen ties between her constituents and Irish companies, I introduced her to my contacts at Artemis. As she told me, Representative Orwall’s interest is to find potential employers to locate in Des Moines. Artemis is looking for a place to build boats.

I shared with Tina my long history of workforce development, having worked as I did with the then Superintendent of Seattle Community Colleges Jill Wakefield and the maritime industry to help establish the industrial programs at South Seattle Community College several decades ago. Tina offered that IBEW local 42 should be engaged as well to support workforce development around ferry construction and infrastructure development to support those ferries.

If Representative Orwall is successful in leading an initiative to bring Artemis and their workforce investment to Des Moines that is a good thing. ...and I do not stand to profit from it in any way other than every other Des Moines resident and business owner who wants to see our local economy grow.

As for Artemis presence at my Ferries Conference: Artemis is sponsoring my conference this year, as they did last year, because they see value in the opportunity to network with national, regional, and local community leaders, city officials and industry peers to promote their boats here in the US, not because they assume some reciprocity with my relationship with Des Moines.

As I've stated previously: I have no financial interest in any of the companies I work with in the promotion of marine transit in Puget Sound. I've been promoting marine transit with enthusiasm for more than twenty years, far before my engagement with the city.

I have a long relationship with John Claussen, director of **Kitsap Transit**, and with Terry Federer, director of **King County Marine Division**. I have been able to leverage the reputation I've earned with these two leaders to build a working relationship between Kitsap Transit, King County Metro and the City of Des Moines that I don't believe the City of Des Moines would have had without my involvement.

This relationship will lead directly to regularly scheduled ferry service between Des Moines, Seattle and Vashon Island operated by King County at zero cost to the City of Des Moines. I believe my continued involvement with this initiative will hasten the initiation of that service.

I have hosted about 120 conferences during my forty-year career. These conferences average 16-20 high-level speakers per conference. More than 2,000 maritime leaders have spoken at my conferences. I retain relationships with most of them.

With each conference averaging 120-150 attendees, I have hosted more than 18,000 maritime professionals, civic leaders, legislators and regulators over the course of my career.

Through my conference work I have developed relationships with regulators from the commandant of the Coast Guard to the Coast Guard lieutenants that board and inspect the ships. Several of those I met as lieutenants are now admirals. I have retained relationships with them.

I have developed relationships with Federal, State and Local elected officials. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell have spoken at my conferences, as has Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski. Governor Inslee has spoken, as have several state legislators. Perhaps more importantly their senior policy advisors have spoken. Again, I retain relationships with most of them.

I have also had business relationships with hundreds of maritime companies during my career. Those relationships consist of connecting maritime companies with clients that will benefit from that connection. I see no conflict between my 40-year career and the work I am doing on behalf of Des Moines. In fact, the forty years I have spent developing trusted relationships with the maritime, legislative and regulatory community is the value I bring to the city.

I am proud of the work I've done for Des Moines and for all my clients. I have conducted myself honestly, with enthusiasm and with integrity throughout my career, and I am happy to address any questions or comments in a public forum or privately with those who have any concerns about my work or how I conduct myself in doing that work.

I look forward to chatting with you later this morning!

Peter

Peter Philips

(206) 779-2746