

From: [Michael Ernst](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Shari Winstead](#); [Keith Scully](#); [Chris Roberts](#); [Will Hall](#); [Keith McGlashan](#); [Doris McConnell](#); deernissee@shoreline.gov; [Jerret Botch](#); [Mark Dunford](#)
Subject: Transportation Impact Fee
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2016 12:01:40 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

Last year, my business partners and I opened Hemlock State Brewing Company, Shoreline's first officially licensed brewery. We love the Shoreline area and want to continue to call it home for our brewery. We believe strongly in the character that small businesses add to a community. This isn't to say that larger operations such as Red Robin and Starbucks should be excluded, but the unique character of a community often anchors on who chooses to do business there.

We started small - incredibly small, as home brewers who enjoyed brewing as a hobby. 2015 was a great year for us to start gaining traction, selling our product at retail and starting to slowly grow our business. We choose to make Shoreline our home, and our hope is to continue doing so. We are in the process of looking to expand and open a taproom. As we've made contacts in Shoreline with other small business owners, one of the clear detriments to that is that is the Transportation Impact Fee (TIF). Depending on where we expand in Shoreline, the fees associated with this could be the difference that requires us to look to neighboring cities. Again, we want to stay in Shoreline, but this is the type of fee structure that benefits larger, more established operations. They can pay that fee without much issue. A small business however has to incorporate that into an already aggressive budget to find space, upgrade it and open for business.

We want to be in Shoreline. We want to grow with the community here and add to, not detract from the unique character that makes Shoreline great. We'd ask that you do away with the Transportation Impact Fee and make it easier for small business to gain a foothold.

Thank you!

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Michael Ernst
Co-Founder & Head Brewer

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