



Washington State Senate

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Senator Lynda Wilson
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Secretary Roger Millar
Washington State Department of Transportation
PO Box 47318
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Secretary Millar,

While I am as big a proponent of levity in the workplace as anyone else is, I also believe strongly in professionalism, particularly in how Washington state agencies interact with the public.

The recent posting of "U Suck" on a reader board above Interstate-5 crosses the line between the two and I would like more information on how this error happened.

I have read in the Tacoma News Tribune that someone at the Washington State Department of Transportation told the press that it was an inappropriate message that was posted due to a training error, and that the WSDOT apologized for the error.

Although I appreciate that an apology was made, I have additional concerns that were not addressed in the article.

These include:

- Who was doing the training?
- Who was being trained?
- For what position were they being trained?
- How was the phrase "U Suck" part of the training?
- Is the phrase "U Suck" one that is acceptable in formal WSDOT training?
- Mechanically, how did the message get transmitted to the sign? (E.g. Did a switch get accidentally flipped on?)
- Was there any disciplinary action for the trainer or trainee(s)?

I hope WSDOT can be more forthcoming with details of how the incident happened and I look forward to receiving answers to these questions. Thank you in advance your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Senator Lynda Wilson
17th Legislative District