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To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Section 9, Second Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5996 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to Washington state department of transportation projects."

This bill is one of several substantive transportation reform bills I am signing into law today. The goal of this particular bill is to streamline the environmental decision making process for transportation projects without sacrificing environmental protections. Section 9 contains additional reporting requirements for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) on lean efforts and to complete a Baldridge assessment. I wholeheartedly support adequately measuring and reporting on performance metrics and lean management efforts. The transportation investment package, however, already includes a number of studies and reports WSDOT must complete and prioritize within available funding. The unfunded requirements in Section 9 of this bill unnecessarily hinder efforts to implement this and other reform bills.

For these reasons I have vetoed Section 9 of Second Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5996.

With the exception of Section 9, Second Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5996 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Inslee
Governor