

February 9, 2010

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
United States Senate

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Senators Murray and Cantwell and Congressman Inslee:

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the federal appropriations requests that are being pursued by the City of Kirkland. Each of these contributes significantly to the continued safety, security, and economic vitality of the Kirkland community. The projects include:

NE 120<sup>th</sup> Street extension

This capital request helps fund the completion of a key "missing link" in the transportation network of the Totem Lake area of Kirkland. This project is a vital component of the City's overall economic development strategy by providing essential infrastructure to serve the Totem Lake urban center and improve the connectivity in the area. The Totem Lake area is the economic engine of Kirkland, with retail sales from the area generating one-third of the City's overall sales tax revenue. Totem Lake is also an important center for high-wage jobs associated with the existing university, high-tech, and bio-tech/medical institutions and research companies in the area.

116<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Non-Motorized Project

This capital request helps fund completion of bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian facilities south along 116<sup>th</sup> Ave NE between the Houghton Park & Ride and similar facilities that start at Bellevue's northern city limits and continue to SR-520. Improvements north and south of the proposed section of 116<sup>th</sup> Ave NE are now completed and the remaining portion of the corridor has no sidewalks, minimal shoulders – bicycles and pedestrians must use existing travel lane or shoulders and untreated storm water from the roadway enters the adjacent Yarrow Creek. Bridle Trails State Park, a 480-acre facility that provides equestrian recreational facilities on a regional and local level is a one of a kind facility within the project limits.

Emergency Services Training

This request helps fund essential training for first responders including tactical training in responding to critical emergency situations, particularly those that may take place in highly populated gathering places. This highly specialized training includes team instruction in disaster recovery after a major structural collapse and countering an active school shooter or terrorist attack, crowd control, and dignitary protection. This training is important for Kirkland community safety, particularly in light of the number of active corporate leaders that live on the eastside and host gatherings of high profile dignitaries in our community.

City Hall/Public Safety Expansion

After many years of study, the City of Kirkland is proceeding with annexation of the three neighborhoods to their north. The Kirkland City Council adopted an ordinance annexing the area on December 15, 2009 with an effective date of June 1, 2011. Kirkland's current population of 49,010 will increase to approximately 82,000. This annexation will result in the hire of new staff, particularly in the Police Department, and will require an expansion to City Hall to accommodate these new officers.

We would like to thank you for considering these request and appreciate any support you may be able to provide to secure funds to assist with the completion of these projects.

Sincerely,