

SUPPORTERS OF THE LAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

June 12, 2018

DEAR KING COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

We applaud your decision three years ago to call for the development of a new initiative to “finish the job” of protecting King County’s remaining and most vital greenspaces and trails, within a generation. Today, we urge your approval of the King County Land Conservation Initiative (LCI).

The LCI is the product of over 100 meetings with mayors and neighborhood leaders, residents of rural areas and suburbs and cities, consultation with experts in public health, real estate, housing, transportation, and climate change. For 16 months an advisory group of 21 civic, community, environmental, business, and philanthropic leaders from across the county, chaired by Tukwila Councilmember De’Sean Quinn and former King County Councilmember and Chair Larry Phillips, met publicly and worked with King County staff to craft the recommendations upon which the Initiative is now based.

We support the Initiative for the following reasons:

- Open and green spaces in and around our cities, towns, and rural areas help filter pollutants, moderate temperatures and provide access to beautiful views and long walks important for our health and quality of life.
- The Initiative addresses historic inequities in access to green and open space in communities with the greatest and most acute needs to ensure that all residents benefit.
- Clear air and water make our farms more productive and our forest and rivers more resilient to the increasingly felt impacts of climate change.
- Our region’s unprecedented growth must be met in equal measure by smart protection of high conservation value lands to preserve what we love about where we live.
- Impacts on buildable lands are limited.
- The Initiative will pair the creation of new greenspace with new housing units to promote livability as our cities grow and densify.
- We still have time; but if we wait, these lands will either be developed or priced beyond our capacity to secure.

The LCI is a path forward to sustain the livability, health, and ecological integrity of our region; it will protect the region’s most vital greenspaces – for everyone – in both our urban and rural environments.

The LCI continues our county’s successful 50-year commitment to protect the natural infrastructure that supports our region, and not a moment too soon. It will require action on a series of discrete steps over the next three decades.

Your support of the LCI today is testament to our region’s vision and capacity to act on essential open and green space conservation alongside and simultaneous with action on multiple pressing issues. We hope you will join the growing list of organizations supporting the LCI. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a healthy future for all of our residents.

Sincerely,

Joe Sambataro, National Access Director & NW
Regional Director
Access Fund

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD, Pacific Northwest
Stewardship Director
American Whitewater

Mark Johnsen, Vice Chair
CFT Citizens Committee

Mitch Friedman, Executive Director,
Conservation Northwest

Tereza Marks, Executive Director
Tim McGruder & Jim Retting, Co-chairs of
Conservation Committee
Eastside Audubon

Michelle Connor, President & CEO
Forterra

Bernie McKinney, President
Green River Coalition

Robert Moser, Chair
King County Parks Foundation

Mark Boyar, President
Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition

Jon Hoekstra, Executive Director
Mountains to Sound Greenway

Steve Hootman, Executive Director
Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

John Brosnan, Executive Director
Seattle Audubon

Dan Ritzman, Director, Lands Water Wildlife
Campaign
Sierra Club

Kitty Craig, WA State Deputy Director
The Wilderness Society

Julie Burman, President
Vashon Maury Audubon

Brad Throssell, State Council Chair of Trout
Unlimited
Washington Council of Trout Unlimited

Tom Uniack, Executive Director
Washington Wild

Tim Lieb, President
Regence BlueShield

AJ McClure, Director of Programs
Global To Local

Mark Taylor, Chapter President
Bellevue Issaquah Trout Unlimited

Terry Lavender, Chair
CFT Citizens Committee

Steve Dubiel, Executive Director
Earth Corps

Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Chris Wierzbicki, Executive Director
Futurewise

Suzanne Kagen, Executive Director
Issaquah Alps Trails Club

Jacques White, Executive Director
Long Live the Kings

Tom Vogl, CEO
Mountaineers

Heather Gibson, President
Rainier Audubon Society

Lori Sechrist, President
Save Weyerhaeuser Campus

Thatcher Bailey, President and CEO
Seattle Parks Foundation

Dan Streiffert, Member at Large
South King County Group of Washington
State Sierra Club

David Patton, Northwest Area Director
Trust for Public Land

Tom Dean, Executive Director
Vashon Maury Island Land Trust

Andrea Imler, Advocacy Director
Washington Trails Association

Susan Wilkins, President
Water Tenders

Robert Gilbertson, President/ CEO
YMCA Greater Seattle

Andrew A. Jay, former CEO
Tiny Trees

Mo McBroom, Director Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy

Rebecca Sadinsky, Executive Director
PCC Farmland Trust

Wendy McDermott,
Director of Rivers of Puget Sound &
Columbia Basin
American Rivers

Martha Kongsgaard

Wildlife Forever Fund

Maryanne Tagney

Denis Hayes

Lisa Parsons

Karen Daubert
Former Executive Director
Washington Trails Association
Wildlife Forever Fund