



King County

Ron Sims

King County Executive

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CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

December 27, 2007

The Honorable Larry Gossett
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Gossett:

I have signed Ordinance 16000 adopting the 4th Quarter Capital Omnibus ordinance as passed by the King County Council, with the exception of a partial veto of Section 2, ER8 Expenditure Restriction 395XXX, the Courthouse Aluminum Panels project.

While I concur with council's assertion that the aluminum panels covering the windows in the King County Courthouse do not lend themselves to providing this historic building with a dignified appearance, I disagree that uncovering the windows and replacing them with historically appropriate double paned windows that match the courthouse's 1916 Second Renaissance Revival design would achieve energy savings.

We do not know the full financial impact of removing the aluminum panels. Cooling the building in the summer requires more energy than heating it in the winter. I am concerned that uncovering the windows could have a negative energy impact by letting in sunlight and therefore increasing the cost to cool the building in the summer months. In addition, the combination of the aluminum exterior panels and the interior panels, with the windows sandwiched in between, create dead air space that has an insulating effect in the winter. By removing the panels, we may actually increase the cost to heat the building in the winter months. We need to study how this upgrade would affect the costs for heating and cooling the building. I would not want this project to result in an increase in our energy usage.

Also, as I stated in my letter to the Council, dated November 30, 2007 indicating my signing of the 2008 Budget Ordinance; in the period 2002 – 2005, we were successful in managing the

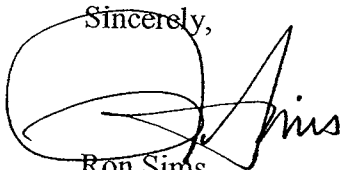
The Honorable Larry Gossett

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effects of the cyclical deficit through our prudent financial management practices and that we will once again face those challenges in preparing and adopting a 2009 budget and will need to continue those prudent practices to meet that challenge. I believe this project potentially could add to that deficit, given the unknowns at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Sims". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Ron Sims
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Ross Baker, Chief of Staff
Saroja Reddy, Policy Staff Director
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
Frank Abe, Communications Director
Bob Cowan, Director, Office of Management and Budget
James J. Buck, County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive
Services (DES)
Kathy Brown, Director, Facilities Management Division (FMD), DES
Noel Treat, Deputy Director, FMD, DES