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April 9, 2006

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King County Council Growth Management & Natural Resources Committee

King County Courthouse

516 Third Avenue, Room 1200

Seattle, WA 98104-3272

Dear Councilmember Phillips,

As you undoubtedly are aware, nearly sixty percent of King County's park operations funding is set to expire at the end of 2007. We are writing today to recommend the renewal of that levy, as well as a companion levy to acquire new County open space, regional trails, and to support other regional projects.

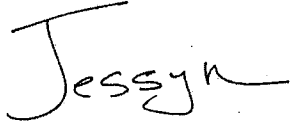
My colleagues and I on the County Parks Futures Task Force were tasked with the mission of answering the questions: "What should be done to preserve the County Park system today?" and "What should be done to build the system for tomorrow?" I am pleased with the outcome of our recommendations. We concluded that the County Council should place two funding measures on the August 2007 primary ballot:

- A 6-year, 7 cent levy lid lift, with an inflation adjustor for operating and capital support for current County regional parks and trails, local rural parks, and the Division's community partnership grants program.
- A companion 6-year, 5 cent inflation adjusted levy lid lift to fund acquisition of new County open space, passive parks and regional trails, matching funds for city open space and trail acquisition, and additional funding for the Woodland Park Zoo.

Transportation Choices believes that the Parks Department must be made whole again, back to business as it was before funding was cut so dramatically. We are firm in our belief that an August 2007 ballot measure affords the greatest opportunity for electoral success, and that the Task Force's recommended funding levels would have a tremendous and positive effect on the County Parks system. As such, we urge you to move legislation quickly to comply with the necessary King County Elections timeline and processes.

We are particularly interested in the opportunity to expand our regional trails and complete important 'missing links' in our transportation network. This will enable King County residents to make active healthy transportation choices including regular walking and biking. Finally, we support the Task Force's recommendations to restore maintenance levels to pre-2002 levels and hope that the maintenance levy adopted by the Council will meet these standards.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your on-going support of County Parks.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessyn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jessyn Farrell
Executive Director
Transportation Choices Coalition