



August 15, 2017

Major General Scott A. Spellmon
Commander, Northwest Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2870
Portland, OR 97208-2870

Colonel Mark A. Geraldi
Commander, Seattle District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Dear General Spellmon and Colonel Geraldi:

As the city mayors and county executive in King County, Washington, we are writing to the Northwest Division and Seattle District Leadership of the US Army Corps of Engineers to request your attention to an urgent infrastructure funding need at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, otherwise known as the Ballard Locks. The Ballard Locks require between \$30 and \$60 million in investments above the President's budget to perform necessary non-routine major maintenance on systems and equipment that are becoming increasingly vulnerable to failure due to their age. We request additional funding in the 2018 budget to support restoration of the Ballard Locks.

The Ballard Locks are critical to the region's economy, salmon restoration efforts, transportation, and flood control infrastructure. Unfortunately, much of the equipment and infrastructure at the Locks is long past its design lifespan and urgently needs repair. Some critical facilities, including the large lock emergency closure system and pump plant, have already failed. And, in 2012, the Corps lowered the dam safety rating to a two out of five because they could fail in an earthquake, with significant economic consequences.

The Ballard Locks are the busiest in the nation, with 50,000 boats passing through them each year. The cost of restoring this critical infrastructure is far outweighed by the economic benefit the Locks bring to this region, including:

- \$1.2 billion in business activity;
- \$120 million in annual payroll;
- 3,000 jobs; and,
- \$15 million annual federal tax revenues.

Failure of the Ballard Locks would further impact the regional economy by rendering the I-90 and Highway 520 floating bridges unusable, affecting more than a quarter million commuter and freight trips per day. In addition, the Northwest Pacific Fishing Fleet and innumerable docks on Lake Washington and Lake Union would be significantly impacted.

Just last month, Puget Sound residents and visitors celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Ballard Locks, and the vital role they play in the region's economy. With investment in critically needed maintenance, we hope this infrastructure can function safely and effectively for another century to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. For more information, please contact Kenmore Mayor David Baker, 2017 SCA Board President, at dbaker@kenmorewa.gov or 425-398-8900.

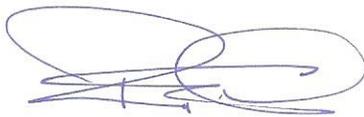
Sincerely,



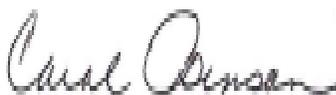
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City of Kenmore



David E. Hill, Mayor
City of Algona



Richard Leider, Mayor
Town of Beaux Arts Village



Carol Benson, Mayor
City of Black Diamond



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City of Duvall



Liz Reynolds, Mayor
City of Enumclaw



Joseph Sabey, Mayor
Town of Hunts Point



Fred Butler, Mayor
City of Issaquah



David Baker, Mayor
City of Kenmore



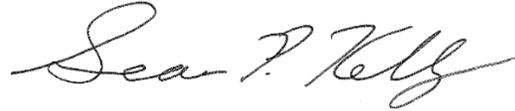
Suzette Cook, Mayor
City of Kent



Amy Walen, Mayor
City of Kirkland



Jeff Johnson, Mayor
City of Lake Forest Park



Sean P. Kelly, Mayor
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City of Milton



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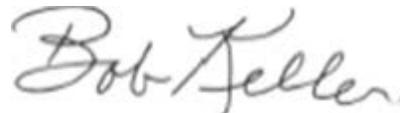
Leanne Guier, Mayor
City of Pacific



John Marchione, Mayor
City of Redmond



Denis Law, Mayor
City of Renton



Bob Keller, Mayor
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Sound Cities Association

6300 Southcenter Boulevard, Suite 206, Tukwila, WA 98188

www.soundcities.org

(206) 433-7168



Michael Siefkes, Mayor
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Chris Roberts, Mayor
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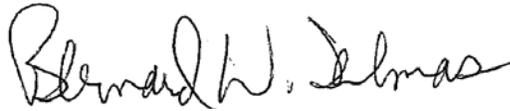
Alan A. Grider, Mayor
Town of Skykomish



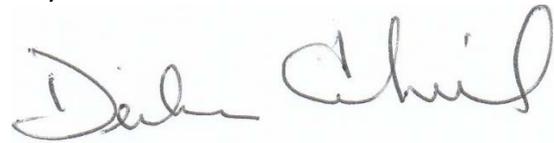
Matt Larson, Mayor
City of Snoqualmie



Allan Ekberg, Mayor
City of Tukwila



Bernard W. Talmas, Mayor
City of Woodinville



Dicker Cahill, Mayor
Town of Yarrow Point



Dow Constantine
King County Executive

CC: Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Patty Murray
Representative Suzan DelBene
Representative Rick Larsen
Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler
Representative Dan Newhouse
Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Representative Derek Kilmer
Representative Pramila Jayapal
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