



MAYOR'S OFFICE
Dan Pike, Mayor
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Bellingham, WA 98225
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November 14, 2008

The Honorable Governor Christine Gregoire
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Gregoire:

We write today in follow up to a letter you recently received from the Port of Bellingham Commissioners. Our goal with this letter is to affirm that the City of Bellingham is committed to moving forward with the Port as a partner on the waterfront redevelopment project.

Throughout each of our administrations, the City has recognized the complexity of this ambitious project. City officials remain committed to honoring our agreements with our partners and moving forward on this project.

The Port, as a special purpose district, by statute, has a different focus than the city. The broad responsibilities of a city require consideration of a vocal and diverse constituency and involve a wider range of municipal functions and goals. It is not surprising that our two governmental entities at times differ in the approach to this project. Undoubtedly over the decades during which this project will be fully implemented, there will be differences between the city and the port. We believe that both the city and the port will retain an ongoing commitment to resolving issues as they arise. The current city administration is committed to working through these issues. Studying the options before us and understanding what is at stake is essential to the success of this project. Adding to this complexity is this period of unprecedented fiscal uncertainty.

What we are facing – and what you have been apprised of – is essentially a difference of opinion between two well-intentioned local governments. The City is committed to continuing this local process, along with the corresponding community dialogue. Compromises will be made, and the end result will serve the citizens and taxpayers of Bellingham and Whatcom County, as well as those of the region, the state, and the nation for many decades to come. We will continue to keep you informed as we move forward on this ambitious project. We reiterate our gratitude for your continued support of the city and port as we move forward on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Pike". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dan Pike, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Asmundson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Asmundson, Former Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Douglas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tim Douglas, Former Mayor

cc: Bellingham City Council
Port of Bellingham Commissioners
Jim Darling, Executive Director, Port of Bellingham
U.S. Senator Patty Murray
U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
Congressman Rick Larsen
State Senator Harriet Spanel
State Senator Dale Brandland
Representative Kelli Linville
Representative Doug Ericksen
Representative Jeff Morris
Representative Dave Quall
Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland
County Executive Pete Kremen
President Bruce Shepard, Western Washington University
President Tom Eckert, Bellingham Technical College
Jay Manning, Director, Department of Ecology