

11 March, 2003

To Waterfront Futures Group:

I was born in Bellingham in 1944 and have lived here all my life. My great concern with the responsibility that we hold to develop our waterfront is that it will be basically "sold out" to the highest bidders. Yes, there may be some token pacifications to allow a few trails, or public access areas. But we have the opportunity to create a vision of Bellingham's waterfront that will benefit all citizens.

With our richness of heritage, history, cultures, geography, we can create a themed waterfront. In the manner of Winthrop; Leavenworth, Wa.; Williamsburg, Va.; Jamestown, Va.; Mt. Vernon, Va.; Henry Ford's Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan; and numerous other towns which have chosen to develop a theme, we have an awesome opportunity to do likewise.

We have a rich Native cultures; fishing industry; logging. We have so many talented artisans and artists in this area. We have a Farmers Market already established. We have a wealth of small businesses already in Whatcom County. We could create an area which would draw and capture tourists year round. It would provide jobs for people not only during the construction process, but year round as shop-keepers; artisans; cafes; eateries; artists at work; living history. Talk about a great cultural center! THERE ARE SO MANY POSSIBILITIES!!!

Please, take a boat and sit in the Bay and just brainstorm, with artists to sketch ideas... and envision what we could create!!!

PLEASE.. do not sell out to the developers who will want their high rise condos, private water access, expensive exclusive shops.

PLEASE... not another Cannery Row like Monterey, California, or more ugly buildings like the Bellweather project.

Let this waterfront be a tribute and a living history that we all can benefit from.

CAN'T YOU SEE IT?!

The water, beach, and walkways in front...

Behind, "historical buildings, capturing the flavor of Bellingham at the turn of the century as this town was born.

Native cultures with their structures, art work, food.

Walking jetties extending out over the water.

Docks for small and people-powered watercraft.

Great entrepreneurial possibilities!

Areas for concerts during the summer.

We ARE the jewel of the Northwest. We can capitalize on our beauty, our location, our history, our determination to have our small businesses thrive, our respect for the environment.

I believe the THEME idea is the way to go, and I believe that the citizens of Bellingham would enthusiastically contribute to and support this vision.

Thank you.

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