

Subject: Seaplane Terminal

Dear Ms. Decker,

I'm writing this email to officially suggest that the Waterfront Futures Group consider a commercial seaplane terminal as the waterfront is redeveloped. I'm not sure if this letter is needed following our discussion on Monday, but as we discussed, something in writing (even an email) never hurts.

I believe a seaplane terminal would offer several advantages to the Bellingham waterfront. These include offering our local population a great vacation or travel service to several Northwest destinations and the potential of bringing tourists from other areas to Bellingham. Other benefits include the addition of a small number of local jobs and an increased business tax base. Personally, I think the best thing about bringing them to Bellingham Bay would be the life and energy they would bring to the waterfront. This includes bringing people to the waterfront to use their services and the more general activity of watching the seaplanes land and take off. This would greatly complement the climate of a "living" waterfront.

There are at least three seaplane companies operating in Northwest Washington: Kenmore Air (www.kenmoreair.com), Northwest Seaplanes (www.nwseaplanes.com), and Seattle Seaplanes (www.seattleseaplanes.com). The granddaddy of the seaplane business is Kenmore Air based in Kenmore, on the north end of Lake Washington. They operate beautiful and completely rebuilt WWII vintage Beaver and Otter seaplanes and they offer flights to/from Seattle, the San Juan Islands, Victoria, Whidbey Island, the Gulf Islands and British Columbia's Inside Passage.

Sincerely,

Rick Black