



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

January 14, 2014

Motion 14045

Proposed No. 2013-0513.2

Sponsors Gossett

1 A MOTION adopting the King County 2014 (FY 2015)
2 Federal Legislative Agenda and King County 2014 (FY
3 2015) Federal Policy Interests.

4 WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive have
5 worked together through their respective government relations staff and desire to bring
6 their positions on federal issues to the attention of the Second Session of the 113th
7 Congress, and

8 WHEREAS, King County desires to work cooperatively with other local
9 governments and other organizations to achieve its 2014 (FY 2015) federal legislative
10 goals, and

11 WHEREAS, King County is dependent on a strong fiscal partnership with the
12 federal government for transportation, public health, homeland security, salmon recovery,
13 flood control, affordable housing and other important needs, and

14 WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive will
15 continue to review congressional developments for possible revisions of King County's
16 2014 (FY 2015) federal legislative goals;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

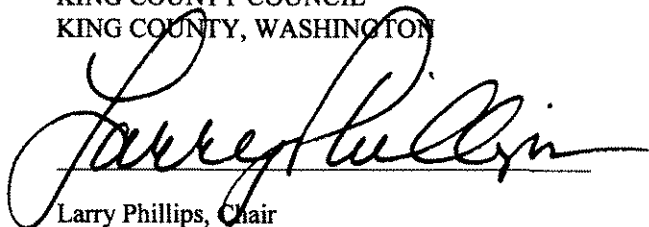
18 The King County council hereby adopts the King County 2014 (FY 2015) Federal
19 Legislative Agenda, Attachment A to this motion, and King County 2014 (FY 2015)

20 Federal Policy Interests, Attachment B to this motion, as King County's highest priorities
21 for federal action in the 2014 (FY 2015) congressional cycle.
22

Motion 14045 was introduced on 12/16/2013 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 1/13/2014, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,
Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Upthegrove
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Ms. Lambert

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: A. 2014 (FY 2015) King County Federal Agenda, B. 2014 (FY 2015) Federal Policy Interests



KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON 2014 (FY 2015) FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

King County's top federal priorities represent a commitment to meeting the most critical needs of its residents despite ongoing challenges. These priorities protect essential functions and infrastructure, continue our many areas of innovation, and make King County a thriving hub of economic development and job creation. King County's Strategic Plan is the foundation for these federal goals and objectives.

Justice and Safety: Support safe communities and accessible justice systems for all.

Youth: King County seeks resources to protect and support our children through tools like Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants, and Juvenile Connections and Mentoring like the LEAP program.

Immigration Reform: King County is home to thousands of immigrants whose work benefits our cities, county and state. We believe that comprehensive immigration reform will both improve the safety and security of our nation and provide a clear path to citizenship for hard-working immigrants who already contribute to our communities and our economy.

Coordinating Levels of Government: To enhance public safety we support changes to federal policy that allow banks to work with state licensed marijuana businesses, such as H.R. 2652, The Marijuana Business Access to Banking Act of 2013. Under current law, banks are prohibited from working with these businesses, which means they will be dealing in cash transactions, increasing risk of theft and creating other regulatory challenges.

Health and Human Potential: Provide equitable opportunities for all individuals to realize their full potential.

Affordable Care Act and Public Health and Prevention Fund: It is a priority of King County to ensure the enrollment of all residents who are newly eligible for health coverage. Implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides an opportunity to enroll approximately 180,000 uninsured King County residents in free or low-cost health insurance. Additionally, the County supports the activities funded by the Public Health and Prevention Fund, which advances the overall health of King County residents.

Mental Health: Today, institutions that have over 16 beds dedicated to serving people impacted by mental illness or drug addiction are excluded from Medicaid payment. Revising that exclusion to allow treatment for individuals who stay less than 30 days will increase access for patients that need short-term access to psychiatric or detoxification services.

Nutrition: King county supports a Farm Bill that protects against hunger by ensuring adequate resources for federal nutrition assistance programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the Women, Infants, and children (WIC) nutrition program, and SNAP-ED which provides funding for nutrition education for low income schools.



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Housing: King County is a recognized leader in cooperative efforts to end homelessness and strongly supports services critical to maintaining housing stability and preventing homelessness, including HOME Investments, which allow the County to leverage private dollars in the community.

Equity: King County supports equal and fair pay for all working people and specific efforts and actions to reduce gender pay disparity.

Economic Growth and Built Environment: Encourage a growing and diverse King County economy and vibrant, thriving and sustainable communities.

- **Transportation:** The County strongly supports maintaining existing federal funding streams for transportation.
 - Resources for robust multimodal programs and infrastructure through both directly distributed and competitive federal funds are critical to the economic growth and community livability of the County.
 - The County continues its commitment to and support for funding to preserve aging roadway and bridge infrastructure, as well as maintain existing transit mobility while growing bus rapid transit systems.
 - The County continues its commitment to complete the Eastside Rail Corridor in partnership with other regional stakeholders.

Airport: The King County International Airport, or Boeing Field, is one of the busiest primary, non-hub airports in the nation. It is part of the Boeing Company's 737 aircraft flight test program and other Boeing operations. The airport is in need of several key facility improvements including a new Air Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) station, and resources for a new airport master plan, which serves as the long term strategic planning document to guide airport growth and development. King County strongly supports maintaining the FAA's Airport Improvement Program, which will provide funds for these activities.

Levees: We continue to seek a holistic approach to floodplain mapping and to levee vegetation and maintenance. We support adoption of a System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) that allows jurisdictions to develop a long-term plan for levee stability and public safety while taking into account regional differences.

Other Local Projects:

- **Chittenden Locks** – The Hiram M. Chittenden Locks maintain the water level of the fresh water Lake Washington and Lake Union at 20 to 22 feet above sea level and are an essential navigation link to the Puget Sound. The locks are vital to commerce in the region as they are heavily used by commercial and recreational vessels and are a major tourist attraction. The locks are in critical need of replacement of the 100 year old gate valves as well as a study of a permanent solution to prevent adult salmon from being caught in the diffuser well of the fish ladder.



KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON 2014 (FY 2015) FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

- **North Lake Washington Channel** – The Navigation Channel is in need of maintenance, as barging operations serving a concrete and asphalt plant, commercial seaplane operations on the south side of the Channel and nearby water-dependent businesses are being affected by the diminished lake depth due to sediment deposition. The most recent maintenance was conducted in 1997, and the County supports funding for an environmental assessment to assess potential water quality and habitat impacts from proposed maintenance actions.

Environmental Sustainability: Safeguard and enhance King County's natural resources and environment.

Clean Water & Puget Sound: We support responsible and innovative stewardship of our watersheds, the Puget Sound, and our other natural resources. We support conservation of key lands that would protect important resources including roadless areas, old-growth forest, salmon habitat, trails, river access, and scenic vistas. In collaboration with our partners, we support an approach to the Lower Duwamish Waterway cleanup that reduces human health risks as quickly as possible while minimizing construction impacts on local neighborhoods, human health, and economic development.

Coal Export: We request that the Department of the Interior examine new and expanded coal leases in the Powder River basin including a review of federal coal leasing practices involving an analysis of appropriate pricing for coal leases and a comprehensive review of the greenhouse gas and other air quality effects of continued and expanded coal leasing.



KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON 2014 (FY 2015) FEDERAL POLICY INTERESTS

Conservation, Natural Resources, and Habitat Protection & Restoration

We seek federal funding support, such as the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) to implement habitat protection and restoration projects in approved Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA)-based salmon recovery plans. PCSRF is the cornerstone of funding for salmon recovery in Washington state and has supported more than 10,000 projects that have resulted in significant improvements in habitat condition and availability. We support efforts to direct a portion of major transportation project mitigation funds to high-priority salmon recovery projects. King County supports federal funding for USFWS to continue investments in research, habitat restoration, and hatchery supplementation for Lake Sammamish Kokanee salmon, as well as recovery of ESA-listed species that consider multiple species and their habitats. King County also supports efforts to designate Puget Sound as a "Great Waterbody," making it a formal Clean Water Act program through legislation such as the Puget Sound Recovery Act.

In order to maintain the good working order of the Ballard Locks, a critical passage for juvenile salmon and an essential navigation link between Puget Sound to Lake Washington, we support investments in improvements to the Locks. King County supports funding for natural resources such as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund which helps protect our natural resources by investing in clean water infrastructure. We also support ecosystem restoration projects, including the work underway on the Duwamish-Green Riverway.

Climate Change and Energy

King County supports federal assistance for local governments to meet climate change goals and is supportive of the President's efforts as part of his Climate Change Initiative. We support programs such as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program and Qualified Energy Efficiency Bonds to retrofit public facilities for greater energy efficiency, partner with the private sector and local universities to develop "green" technologies and provide green jobs training, and provide assistance to housing authorities to make energy efficiency investments.

So that we may replace our transit fleet with hybrid electric buses, develop electric-car charging infrastructure, and purchase alternative fuel vanpool fleet vehicles, we support federal transportation programs that provide for those investments. The County is also committed to reducing greenhouse gasses from its fleets: hybrid buses now comprise 50 percent of our bus fleet. We support mechanisms to help utilities and communities address the impacts of climate change, as well as federal funding for development of tools and strategies for evaluating and adapting to climate impacts on public health, emergency response, and natural resources. King County interests include supporting Puget Sound Energy's increased reliance on energy efficient and renewable energy sources; we are engaged in efforts to support residential energy efficiency efforts through King County's GreenTools program and support efforts to expand to multifamily buildings. The County supports federal grant programs, including the Sustainable Housing and Communities Grant Program, which promote integration of transportation, housing, health, low impact development, and climate mitigation planning and projects.

Economic Development

We encourage federal efforts to partner with local governments and provide them with tools needed to build strong, diverse, and sustainable economies. We support regional economic growth through strategic public-private partnerships such as the Central Puget Sound Regional Economic Strategy and the King County Aerospace Alliance. We encourage federal support to help develop these and other economic strategies to retain existing businesses and strategically recruit new ones in key industrial clusters in which the region has a competitive advantage. King County supports public works grants, such as those through the Economic

Development Administration, to support private-sector projects that will create jobs, leverage private investment, and encourage domestic and international exports.

Workforce development is important for King County's economic development and for supporting a strong, vibrant economy. King County supports reauthorizing and fully funding the Workforce Investment Act to continue the one-stop employment system and provide full funding support for dislocated workers, low-income adults, and disadvantaged youth. We support greater funding and support for curricula at the secondary and postsecondary education levels that emphasize training and careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Emergency Management & Flood Hazard Reduction

We support fundamental emergency management tools, including improvements in enhanced 911 services. King County supports integrated approaches to major river flood hazard reduction, including development of regional standards for levee maintenance that both protect public safety and meet state and federal requirements for protecting listed species and maintaining levees. King County and its partners are planning to complete the System Wide Improvement Framework in the Green River Valley, and we request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) participate in that process prior to the release of their updated Flood Insurance Rate maps. King County supports extending the exemption from income tax to state and local flood mitigation funds to eliminate the current disincentive for homeowners to elevate their homes. Currently only funds from FEMA for home elevations are exempt from federal income tax.

Equity and Social Justice

King County believes that every person has the right to live, work, learn, feel safe and play free from discrimination. We support legislation that prevents discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations and lending practices. We also support efforts to reduce and reverse disproportionate outcomes in the areas of race and social justice.

Health Care and Support

King County develops and implements creative and effective strategies and programs that prevent the leading causes of poor health, ensure access to appropriate and quality physical and behavioral health services, and promote individual health and interventions to reduce health disparities. Supporting and expanding this work requires stable funding at the federal level for our public health, mental health and chemical dependency prevention and support infrastructure. Critical components of our system of regional public health include preparedness funding, CDC disease control and prevention, and Maternal Child Health Block Grants.

Implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides an opportunity to enroll approximately 180,000 uninsured King County residents in free or low-cost health insurance. Additionally, the County supports the activities funded by the Public Health and Prevention Fund in particular Community Transformation Grants which support the overall health of King County citizens.

We support policies that ensure our citizens receive timely care in an appropriate setting. We support repealing the exclusion of Institutions for Mental Disease from Medicaid reimbursement, which will increase access for patients that need short-term access to psychiatric or detoxification services. Accurate data is critical to our work supporting the public health of the citizens in King County. We support increasing funding for CDC's National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), so that more than 18 states can participate in efforts to link data on violent deaths from a variety of sources. We support efforts to promote healthy eating, active living standards, and obesity prevention. We support steps that will reduce use of tobacco and tobacco by-products, including cigars, and support FDA authority to regulate all tobacco products.

Homelessness & Housing

King County is the administrative lead for the Committee to End Homelessness. The committee's success is built on existing strong collaborations between local, state, and federal governments, and community

nonprofit providers. We support maintaining and expanding funding and regulatory initiatives for affordable, appropriate housing at the federal level for homeless and low income residents of King County, including the Workforce Investment Act.

Many federal initiatives provide services critical to maintaining housing stability and include HOME, Community Development Block Grants, McKinney Homeless Assistance Grants Low Income Housing Tax Credit Programs, Common Sense Housing Investment Act, Project Rebuild and the National Housing Trust Fund. We also support connecting county investments supporting veterans with the federal government's initiative to end homelessness for veterans. Programs such as Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing allow the County to do that.

Human Services

King County supports funding for human services programs that: help all children and youth grow and prosper socially and academically; offer paths to reduce or prevent involvement in the criminal justice system, crisis mental health; and emergency medical systems, and provide a safety net of services and partnerships to support our most vulnerable residents. We further support initiatives that offer opportunities for independence, self-sufficiency; and mobility for all residents, including those with developmental and other disabilities.

King County supports a Farm Bill that protects against hunger by ensuring adequate resources for federal nutrition assistance programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program, and SNAP-ED, which provides funding for nutrition education for low income schools. We also support Farmers Market Nutrition Programs (FMNP) which helps promote healthier communities. We also support greater access to locally generated and fresh food, and the improved use of electronic food stamps to purchase these products from local farmers and producers.

Land Use and Built Environment

King County favors policies that support the integration of land use, transportation, and public health through urban and suburban development standards, siting of hazardous land uses, transportation infrastructure, transit planning, and building construction requirements. For example, King County supports efforts to invest in additional green infrastructure, using vegetation and natural processes to manage stormwater and combined sewer overflows.

Law & Criminal Justice

King County supports a fair and accessible justice system that keeps people safe in their homes and communities. We support the use of court fees that appropriately balance the need for revenue with the need to eliminate barriers to court access. King County supports community policing initiatives that develop collaborative partnerships between communities and law enforcement, and tools that help residents and local officers exchange information. To that end, we support funding for the Bureau of Justice Assistance competitive grants that allow King County to apply for funds for RADAR (Risk Awareness, De-escalation And Referral). We are committed to ending domestic violence and sexual assault for our residents and support restoration of the COPS Domestic Violence grants, which supported our domestic violence unit. We continue to be concerned about human trafficking and will work to combat its practice.

King County seeks resources to protect and support our children through tools like Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants, Juvenile Connections and Mentoring, and child support enforcement grants.

To enhance public safety, we support changing federal policy to allow banks to work with state authorized marijuana businesses. Under current law, banks are prohibited from working with these businesses, which means they will be limited to cash transactions, increasing risk of theft and decreasing the ability to regulate the business.

Stormwater/Water Quality/Puget Sound Partnership

We support more holistic implementation of the Clean Water Act, including evaluation of and prioritization of actions at a watershed and Puget Sound scale that allows local jurisdictions to achieve the greatest water quality improvements first. EPA's proposed Integrated Planning Framework attempts to offer a solution to this issue. We support efforts to fund a pilot program of EPA's Integrated Planning Framework.

In collaboration with our partners, we support an approach to the Lower Duwamish Cleanup that would enable high-priority clean-up actions to proceed and reduce human health risks as quickly as possible, while minimizing construction impacts to local residents and businesses. Clean-up work should be subject to rigorous monitoring and adaptive management.

We support funding and implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda, including funding for grants administered by EPA and establishment of the Puget Sound Restoration as a recurring line-item in the federal budget. We support federal appropriations for the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration and Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Program.

Transportation

Robust, multimodal mobility is critical to economic growth and community livability in King County and the nation. We support a surface transportation reauthorization bill that supports these goals through both directly distributed and competitive federal funds. With nearly 1,700 miles of paved roads, 51 miles of unpaved roads, and 184 bridges under county management, we have a diverse and complex mix of infrastructure needs to support our many communities. The County continues its commitment to and support for funding to preserve and maintain the aging roadway infrastructure connecting rural, suburban, and urban communities.

We support resources to acquire remaining parcels adjacent to the County's airport property, as well as funding for passenger ferry service capital investments. We support preservation and expansion of trip reduction programs and innovation in carpool and vanpool programs, including the Commute LESS Act. We support improvement in enforcement of laws that make it a crime for drivers to have an unsecured load.

As the operator of one of the largest bus systems in the United States, King County strongly supports federal efforts to fund public transportation improvements nationwide and to maintain existing transit mobility while growing both bus and light-rail rapid transit systems. We support innovative opportunities for transit-oriented development that serves a number of complementary goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, focusing density into urban areas, and providing for a range of affordability levels for county residents. We support legislation to reduce greenhouse gas levels caused by transportation, including legislation that gives transit vehicles priority in the design and operation of federal roads. So that we may replace our transit fleet with hybrid electric buses, develop electric car charging infrastructure, and purchase alternative vanpool fleet vehicles, we support federal transportation programs that provide for those investments, such as including local governments in the tax credit for purchase of electronic vehicles and continuing the subsidy of alternative fuel vehicles.

Truck stops and rest areas that can be used by trucks, in Washington State (King County or our nation) are over capacity. This truck parking shortage has placed undue pressure on small communities not equipped nor funded to handle the impacts. Trucks parking on local streets create noise and air pollution from idling diesel truck engines, increase police service to address citizen complaints, and add maintenance costs on local roadways not designed to withstand truck usage. Federally mandated breaks for long haul drivers, truck stops located on either end of mountain passes, scheduled drop off times for delivery to seaports Ports and rail terminals add to the problem. King County supports additional funding for affected truck stop hosting communities to increase the amount of truck parking available and mitigate increased costs for communities hosting truck parking and rest areas.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

We support development of cradle-to-cradle product education, stewardship, recycling, and take-back programs for products for which improper disposal is likely to result in hazardous waste or water quality contamination, including pharmaceuticals and medicines, computers and other electronics, carpet, and fluorescent lighting. We support resources to reduce and regulate toxics in the environment, as well as the ability to exercise local authority over toxics in alignment with other laws and standards.

Existing regulations at multiple federal agencies (DEA, DOT, EPA and USPS) currently impede efforts of prescription drug take-back programs. King County supports rapid finalization of DEA's draft regulations for disposal of controlled substances through medicine take-back programs. We support policies that would prohibit the export of electronic waste to developing nations that lack the capacity to recycle these products in an environmentally sound manner, such as the Electronics Recycling Act. To reduce exposure of children, consumers, and workers to toxic chemicals used in consumer products and manufacturing processes, King County supports improved regulation of toxic chemicals and reform of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).