



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

January 27, 2015

Motion 14287

Proposed No. 2014-0470.3

Sponsors Phillips

1 A MOTION adopting the King County 2015 (FY 2016)
2 Federal Legislative Agenda and King County 2015 (FY
3 2016) 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 114th
7 Congress, and

8 WHEREAS, King County desires to work cooperatively with other local
9 governments and other organizations to achieve its 2015 (FY 2016) 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 2015 (FY 2016) 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 2015 (FY 2016) Federal
19 Legislative Agenda, Attachment A to this motion, and King County 2015 (FY 2016)

20 Federal Policy Interests, Attachment B to this motion, as King County's highest priorities
21 for federal action in the 2015 (FY 2016) congressional cycle.
22

Motion 14287 was introduced on 11/17/2014 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 1/26/2015, by the following vote:

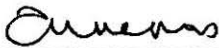
Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,
Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr.
Upthegrove
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: A King County 2015 Federal Legislative Agenda dated 1-26-15, B. King County 2015 (FY 2016) Federal Policy Interests



King County

KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

2015 (FY2016) Federal Legislative Agenda

MOTION 14287, ATTACHMENT A

01-26-2015

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.

Tax Intercept Authority: We support legislation giving the U.S. Department of Treasury authority to intercept tax refunds to pay overdue state and county court-ordered financial obligations including fines, fees and victims' restitution, such as the Crime Victim Restitution and Court Fee Intercept Act.

Preparedness Funding: The County is a national leader in preparedness, and our efforts are primarily supported by federal grants. King County seeks a restoration of funding for grant programs through the Centers for Disease Control Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response and the Department of Homeland Security's Urban Areas Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Program.

Coordinating Levels of Government: To enhance public safety, we support changes to federal policy that would allow banks to work with state licensed marijuana businesses, such as the Marijuana Business Access to Banking Act. Under current law, banks are prohibited from working with these businesses, which means they are dealing in cash transactions increasing risk of theft and creating other regulatory challenges. While guidance from the Treasury Department last February has helped to address the situation, we seek legislative action that would add certainty for banks and legal marijuana businesses.

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

Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Medicaid Rule Change: Today, institutions that have over 16 beds dedicated to serving adults impacted by mental illness or drug addiction are excluded from Medicaid payment unless a waiver is provided. We support a rule change to allow treatment for stays of less than 30 days in a larger mental health or substance abuse treatment facility. We fully support legislation repealing the IMD exclusion altogether.

Inmate Medicaid Eligibility: King County supports legislation allowing an otherwise eligible person who is in custody (pending disposition of charges) to continue receiving Medicaid and other federal health benefits until they are convicted, sentenced and incarcerated. This will help us break the cycle of recidivism and reduce health disparities by continuing coverage for a population of low-income adults with substantial physical, mental health and substance abuse needs.

Coordinated Care: King County seeks a technical fix of federal substance abuse confidentiality rules designed in 1972 to align with HIPAA privacy laws and the HITECH Act of 2009 to allow for streamlined information sharing in order to improve coordination of care and client outcomes.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: King County advocates for full funding of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to support dislocated workers, low-income adults, out-of-school youth and youth with significant disabilities. We hope to be an active partner in the development of regulations and throughout the implementation process.

Affordable Care Act Implementation: King County is proud of its efforts to lead the *Coverage is Here King County* campaign. To date, more than 195,000 King County residents have enrolled in health insurance plans because of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The County continues to coordinate county-wide efforts to spread enrollment information and assist the uninsured with enrollment. We support the continued implementation of the ACA at the federal, state and local levels.

Child Nutrition: We believe children should have access to healthy and nutritious foods where they live, play and learn and we support building on the successes of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act in the next reauthorization. Reauthorization will continue essential child nutrition programs including the School Breakfast, National School Lunch, Child and Adult Care Food, Summer Food Service and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Programs and WIC.

Maternal and Child Health: We support continued funding for programs like the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant and the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program that serve the public health needs of new and expecting mothers and young children in our communities.

Accessible Public Information: King County supports amending the Communications Act of 1934 to establish signal quality and content requirements of the carriage of public, educational, and governmental channels in order to preserve public access to local government proceedings.

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

Transportation: The federal government is an important partner in helping the County maintain robust, multimodal mobility which is critical to economic growth and community livability in King County. The County supports:

- Maintaining existing federal funding streams for transportation,
- Reauthorization of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st including focus on the State of Good Repair infrastructure program and transit systems,
- Increased funding for the Federal Highway Trust Fund and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grants,
- Dedicated funding to address aging local and county bridges,
- Resources for robust multimodal programs and infrastructure through both directly distributed and competitive federal funds that are critical to the economic growth and community livability of the County,
- A commitment to and support for funding to preserve local and regional aging roadway and bridge infrastructure, as well as maintaining existing transit mobility while growing bus rapid transit systems.

Hiram M. 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.

Levees: King County continues to seek regulatory certainty and engagement of the US Army Corps in the 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. We look forward to working with the Army Corps of Engineers as they implement language on levee vegetation included in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

Eastside Rail Corridor: King County seeks federal support for the regional effort to design and develop key connections and compatible uses for the Eastside Rail Corridor which integrates economic development, transportation and utility needs. At this time, no federal program adequately meets the funding or eligibility needs of this project. King County supports consideration of revisions to federal transportation and other funding sources to better enable them to support multiple-use corridor projects like the ERC.

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

Lower Duwamish Cleanup: 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. The County seeks support for an appropriate decision from the EPA on Superfund Cleanup of the Lower Duwamish Waterway that meets these goals and does not add additional cleanup actions that are costly and offer few environmental or health benefits.

Pacific Coastal Salmon: The Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund has been a significant source of funding for King County's ecosystem capital improvement program to design and construct salmon restoration projects. The County, the lead entity for salmon recovery coordination in WRIAs 8 and 9, supports continued funding for the PCSRF in FY2016.

Oil and Coal Mining and Transport: The County requests that federal decisions relating to coal and oil include the complete lifecycle costs and benefits of mining, transport and export, including economic, environmental, health and infrastructure impacts.

Clean Water and Puget Sound Recovery: We support responsible and innovative stewardship of our watersheds, the Puget Sound, and our other natural resources, including efforts to designate Puget Sound as a "Great Waterbody" to make it a formal Clean Water Act program through such legislation as the Puget Sound Recovery Act.

Mountains to Sound Greenway and the Skykomish Initiative: King County supports legislation to designate the Mountains to Sound Greenway as a National Heritage Area. This designation would provide the recognition and resources needed to conserve the Greenway for future generations. We also support legislation furthering our commitment to the economic development, recreation and conservation efforts outlined in the Skykomish Initiative.

For additional information, please contact:
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King County

KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

2015 (FY2016) Federal Policy Interests

MOTION 14287, ATTACHMENT B

Conservation, Natural Resources and Habitat Protection and Restoration

King County is committed to conservation and restoration efforts and the health of the Puget Sound. The County seeks federal funding for programs such as the **Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)** to implement habitat protection and restoration projects. 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 also support efforts to designate Puget Sound as a "Great Waterbody" to make it a formal Clean Water Act program through such legislation as the **Puget Sound Recovery Act**.

We support US Army Corps investments in improvements to the **Hiram Chittenden Locks**, a critical passage for juvenile salmon and an essential navigation link between Puget Sound and Lake Washington. Finally, we support funding sources such as the **Clean Water State Revolving Fund** which helps protect our natural resources by investing in clean water infrastructure and continued federal funding for the **Army Corp's 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 under the **National Climate Action Plan**. In addition, the County supports federal decisions that include the complete lifecycle costs and benefits of **coal and oil mining, transport and export**. We also support improving oil train safety by eliminating the use of DOT-111 tank cars in the transport of highly flammable crude oil.

We support federal grants through the Department of Transportation, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency that provide for **alternative fuel vehicle investments**. The County is working towards replacing our transit fleet with hybrid electric buses, developing additional electric-car charging infrastructure, and purchasing more alternative fuel vanpool fleet vehicles. We are committed to reducing greenhouse gasses from County fleets; hybrid buses now comprise 50 percent of our bus fleet. Further, we support programs that incentivize transit use by our citizens, including the **tax credit for employer-provided transit passes** and the reauthorization of the **Commuter Trip Reduction program**.

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 encourage federal support to help develop economic strategies to retain existing businesses and strategically recruit new ones in key industrial clusters in which the region has a competitive advantage. We support policies that promote trade including the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

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Emergency Management and Flood Hazard Reduction

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. We appreciate the language in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act on *levee vegetation* and look forward to working with the Army Corps on implementation. King County and its partners are working towards completion of the *System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF)* in the Green River Valley and support additional engagement from the federal agencies involved to provide regulatory certainty.

The County believes *revisions to the National Flood Insurance Program levee certification* program are necessary to reflect the true risk that remains even with the presence of a levee. 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.

King County supports reauthorization of the *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act* which provides funds to work with rural communities to reduce the risk of damage from wildfires and also provides funding for rural roads.

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. The County is committed to reducing recidivism in our community and supports federal programs to that end. Further, *we support equal and fair pay for all* working people and specific efforts and actions to reduce gender pay disparity.

King County is home to thousands of immigrants whose work benefits our cities, county and state. We believe that *comprehensive immigration reform* will 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.

Health Care and Support

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 or revising the policy to allow for short-term stays of less than 30 days. This change will increase access for patients who need short-term access to psychiatric or detoxification services.

The County supports legislation to maintain *Medicaid coverage for inmates* who are otherwise eligible to receive Medicaid and other federal health benefits until they are convicted, sentenced and incarcerated. This will help us break the cycle of recidivism and reduce health disparities by providing and continuing coverage to a population of low-income adults with substantial physical, mental health and substance abuse needs.

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

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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.**

King County is proud of its efforts to lead the Coverage is Here King County campaign. To date, more than 195,000 King County residents have enrolled in health insurance plans because of the **Affordable Care Act**. Additionally, the County supports the activities funded by **the Public Health and Prevention Fund**, which advances the overall health of King County residents.

We support steps that will reduce use of tobacco and tobacco by-products including cigars, and support **FDA authority to regulate all tobacco products**. Nicotine poisonings have sharply increased especially among children as e-cigarettes which deliver liquid nicotine have become more widely available. King County supports federal legislation such as the **Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act** that would require child resistant packaging on these products.

The County also seeks to promote integration of care by **revising federal substance abuse privacy laws**, originally designed in 1972, to align more closely with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2009.

Homelessness and 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 non-profit workers. 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

We support the many federal initiatives that provide services to maintaining housing stability, including **HOME, Community Development Block Grants, McKinney Homeless Assistance Grants, Low Income Housing Tax Credit Programs, Common Sense Housing Investment Act, Project Rebuild, the National Housing Trust Fund and Section 8 Rental Assistance**. 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.

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We believe children should have access to healthy and nutritious foods where they live, play and learn and support building on the successes of the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** and the **Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act** in the next reauthorization.

King County strongly supports funding for the newly reauthorized **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** which allows the County to operate WorkSource Renton, a one stop employment center, as well as programs serving youth and dislocated workers.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provides funds that allow the County to invest in projects serving low-income households, neighborhoods and communities including homelessness prevention, shelter diversion and other crucial needs. We strongly support ongoing funding for CDBG.

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 and Criminal Justice

King County supports a fair and accessible justice system that keeps people safe in their homes and communities. The County seeks resources to protect and support our children through tools like the **Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants** and **Child Support Enforcement Grants**. Further, the County supports continued funding for the **Medicaid Administrative Match Program** which allows the County to provide outreach and promote enrollment in Medicaid programs for court-involved youth and families.

To enhance public safety, we support changing federal policy to **allow banks to work with state authorized marijuana businesses**. Guidance from the Treasury Department last February has helped; however, we support legislative action that would add certainty for banks and legal marijuana businesses.

The County also supports efforts to ensure victims of crime receive the restitution due to them, through legislation such as the **Crime Victim Restitution and Court Fee Intercept Act**. The bill allows the Department of Treasury to intercept tax refunds to pay overdue court ordered fines, fees and victim restitution.

Stormwater and Water Quality

We support revising **EPA's community affordability standards** to include a holistic view of 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.

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

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while minimizing construction impacts to local residents and businesses. Clean-up work should be subject to rigorous monitoring and adaptive management.

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 supports preserving existing federal transportation funding. The federal government is a vital partner in our efforts to **preserve and maintain the aging local and regional roadway infrastructure**, replace transit busses and ferries and many other modalities that connect rural, suburban and urban communities.

In addition, the County supports a **change in Federal Highway Administration policy** that requires competitive bidding for all federally funded projects to allow the use of County maintenance crews. This would give the County the ability to conduct timely temporary and permanent repairs to transportation infrastructure damaged by storm events.

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.

King County seeks federal support for the regional effort to design and develop key connections and compatible uses for the **Eastside Rail Corridor** which integrates economic development, transportation and utility needs.

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**.

The King County International Airport, or Boeing Field, is one of the busiest primary, non-hub airports in the nation. King County strongly supports **maintaining the FAA's Airport Improvement Program**, which provides funds for critical activities such as including a new Air Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) station, and resources for a new airport master plan.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

We support development of holistic 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.

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 **Responsible 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)**.