

February 20, 2018

Re: Support King County Land Conservation Initiative

Dear TrEE Committee,

My name is Cindy Flanagan, from Councilmember von Reichbauer's Auburn area. I represent the Rainier Audubon and I'm here to speak in support of the Land Conservation Initiative.

For the past year, Rainier Audubon has been following the Land Conservation Initiative and meeting with Advisory Committee members. I am appreciative of the diversity and expertise in this group, the thorough research and outreach and in-depth discussion that went into creating this initiative. Thank you to the committee for your outstanding work.

Our Audubon conducts bird surveys on over 500 square miles of King County urban and rural territory. It's amazing how many residents of all ages are using our open spaces--not just on the weekend, but on weekdays too. What I notice is that people are immersed in their surroundings, happy and often eager to share a newfound experience. Many are thankful for the open space that generations before us have saved; but people are also quick to raise their concerns about our growing population and pressures of development and need for conserving more open space.

Our Rainier Audubon supports the Land Conservation Initiative:

- It is proactive—the committee has done a great job identifying high conservation lands throughout the county
- Our environmental infrastructure is as important to our livability as other infrastructure like sewage, clean energy and transit. The initiative is foundational to our environmental infrastructure and maintaining quality of life and wellness.
- The initiative includes a maintenance and operations budget which will help keep acquisitions clean, safe, and open.

Whether we are keeping the foothills forested, protecting agricultural land in the Green River Valley or saving the historic Weyerhaeuser Campus urban open space, environmental sustainability is a necessity for all. We have opportunity now to protect rivers, streams and natural areas that connect our communities and will be there for people of today and generations to come. We ask for your support on this initiative. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cindy Flanagan



Our mission:

- Protect* North Lake’s west shoreline and watershed, wildlife habitat, Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden & Pacific Bonsai Museum.
- Preserve* the forests, meadows and trails, & public access to them.
- Maintain* the campus character through premium development that blends with the environment and brings high-quality jobs to the community.

The Threat to the Campus

New owner Industrial Realty Group has applied for permits to build 5 separate warehouses — 1.5 million total square feet — covering 178 now-forested acres of the historic Weyerhaeuser corporate campus.

Our Conservation Focus

The Lakeshore

- Preserving 54 forested acres on North Lake, headwaters of the important East Hylebos Creek.
- Protecting 6,000 feet of shoreline, the longest undeveloped waterfront in South King County.

Wetlands & Watershed

- Ensuring intact wetlands, clean runoff and consistent water flows that are key to the health of the North Lake/East Hylebos system.
- Preventing construction of storm water ponds on the lake-front.

Forests, Meadows & Trails

- 4,000 endangered trees, necessary to the health of the North Lake/Hylebos watershed.
- Forests and meadows that provide habitat for diverse wildlife.
- Seven miles of easy-access trails, enjoyed by the public for more than 40 years.

Our Vision for the Campus

Healthy Living

- Trails connecting North Lake, the Rhododendron garden, the bonsai museum & downtown Federal Way
- Year-round access to the lake for paddling, kayaking.
- Open-space serenity in our fast-growing urban region

Nature’s Classroom

- A place where children and adults can study a healthy forest and riparian habitat
- Birding opportunities
- Interpretive signs for trail users
- Learning Center along North Lake

Innovative Development

- Buildings of premium design that mesh with the historic landscape
- Non-polluting businesses with limited reliance on semi-trucks
- High-tech and other well-paying jobs to benefit our community.



Connect with Us!

 SAVEWEYERHAEUSERCAMPUS.ORG

 SAVETHECAMPUS@GMAIL.COM

\$\$\$ GOFUNDME.COM/SAVETHECAMPUS

CHECKS TO: **Save Weyerhaeuser Campus**
PO Box 4402, Federal Way, WA 98063

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2/20 – Support of King County Land Conservation Initiative

Good morning, my name is Lori Sechrist, and I'm here to support the King County Land Conservation Initiative.

I'm president of Save Weyerhaeuser Campus, a nonprofit, grass roots organization dedicated to advocating responsible use of the historic Weyerhaeuser campus in Federal Way, in the face of proposed industrial development that would scar its landscape forever. Our mission is promoting conservation of the open spaces, forests and trails of this regional gem, which has been open free to public use for nearly 50 years.

People of all ages and walks of life, from all over South King County and beyond come to the campus to walk their dogs, fly kites, meander the seven miles of trails and teach their children the wonders and importance of natural habitats.

They are drawn by the 300 acres of forest and meadows, the longest undeveloped shoreline in South King County, a healthy lake that is the headwaters of the East Hylebos, the world-renowned Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden and the Pacific Bonsai Museum. Much of the campus and its iconic ivy-covered headquarters building are eligible for historic listing.

But this irreplaceable urban open space is in real danger of being lost. The new owners have proposed 1.5 million square feet of warehouses. If this large-scale development proceeds, more than half of the campus's healthy forest, which is critical to the water quality and quantity of the North Lake and the Hylebos watershed, would be gone, forever. Access to the seven miles of forest and lakeside trails could be lost. Hundreds of semi-trucks traveling to and from the campus would add to the growing carbon emissions and worsening our already clogged I-5 and Hwy 18 corridor.

This property is in urgent need of being saved. King County's high-conservation areas, like the historic Weyerhaeuser campus, are critical to our health, quality of life and economy.