



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

September 9, 2014

The Honorable Larry Phillips
Council Chair
King County Council
516 Third Avenue Room 120
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Councilman Phillips:

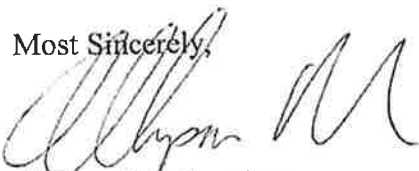
The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation strongly supports proposed King County Ordinance 2014-0359, designating a King County Maritime Heritage Area.

From canoe highways, to the early European explorers, from the Gold Rush era, to the Mosquito fleet, and onto our present day ferry system, Washington State has a fascinating maritime history that deserves recognition and increased visibility.

Heritage tourism, particularly maritime heritage tourism, is a billion dollar industry that is critical for small businesses and maritime non-profit organizations. The proposed local maritime heritage area would be non-regulatory and the designation would specifically highlight the significance of King County's maritime history. When a similar designation was proposed at the state level, we had the support of Holland America, the Puget Sound Regional Council, the Port of Tacoma, Argosy Cruises, Pope Resources and numerous other businesses and non-profits that saw the commercial and educational potential of this designation.

The proposal will not impact private property or development. With the closure of the state tourism office it has become essential for local communities to find ways to market and promote their own history. We applaud King County for undertaking this important tourism and educational initiative.

We are hopeful that this ordinance will pass and the County will be the first local entity in the state to establish a maritime heritage area.

Most Sincerely,

Allyson Brooks, Ph.D.
Director, State Historic Preservation Officer





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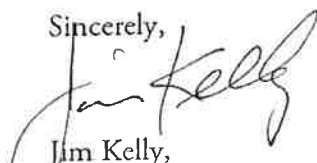
RE: A Maritime Heritage Area for King County, WA

The history and geography of King County is distinctively tied to the water and to all things maritime. Indeed, our present day economy still rests firmly on shipping and maritime trades. Along our salt water shoreline are places that illustrate the story of fishing, navigation, recreation, and waterborne transportation. Collectively these maritime attractions form a powerful calling card to King County.

4Culture enthusiastically supports the creation of a county maritime heritage area as visible means of celebrating our local connections to the sea. As a marketing overlay, the heritage area will encourage tourism promotion around this pervasive theme. Such marketing can draw attention to local historic vessels, maritime museums, lighthouses, public marinas, waterfront parks, shipyards, and small marine businesses.

As an active partner in the on-going statewide maritime heritage initiative, 4Culture urges King County Council support of Proposed Ordinance No. 2014-0359.

Sincerely,



Jim Kelly,
Executive Director