



**King County**

**Dow Constantine**

King County Executive  
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800  
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

**206-263-9600** Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

November 24, 2021

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would enable King County to make changes to the administration and implementation of our current use assessment programs described in King County Code (KCC) Chapter 20.36, Open Space, Agricultural, and Timber Lands Current Use Assessment.

The proposed Ordinance would eliminate the County's Timberland current use assessment classification and merge it into the Designated Forestland program as authorized by passage of Washington State Senate Bill 6180 in 2014. These proposed updates to KCC will help ensure King County's programs continue to be administered clearly and efficiently.

This proposed legislation would consolidate the responsibility for administration of tax incentives for property formerly classified as Timberland with the Department of Assessments (DOA) under its Designated Forestland program. It would also eliminate the requirement for the Council to act on and approve property enrollment in the Timberland Program, and instead allow DOA staff to administratively approve all property enrollment in the Designated Forestland program. Ultimately when enacted, this proposed legislation would create administrative efficiencies and provide greater clarity for customers without affecting the scope or availability of existing tax incentives to support working forests on private property.

In developing the proposed Ordinance, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks sought and incorporated input from the DOA. DOA has reviewed the proposed legislation and confirms that it will have no fiscal impact to its administration of property formally classified as timberland, and that it supports the legislation.

Attached are a plain language summary required by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) and KCC 20.18.100, an acknowledgement letter from the Washington State Department of Commerce, a public notice of intent to amend required by the GMA, a regulatory note, and a draft notice of public hearing.

The proposed legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient and accountable regional and local government.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

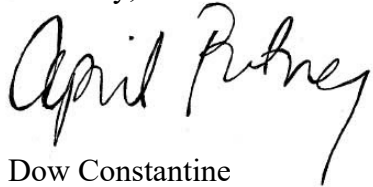
November 24, 2021

Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will help King County residents benefit from increased administrative efficiencies.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Josh Baldi, Division Director of the Water and Land Resources Division in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-9440.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Janine Weihe, Acting Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP