

April 11, 2017

Joe McDermott  
Chair, King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Suite 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember McDermott,

I am writing in support of the proposal by King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) to acquire and preserve the Mukai Cold Process Fruit Barreling Plant on Vashon Island.

The plant is part of the Mukai Agricultural Complex, which is a King County Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is significant at the local, state, and, I believe, national level for helping to tell the story of Japanese American settlement and farming in King County, and the internationally important story of the devastating effects of exclusion and internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

As a former member of the 4Culture Historic Preservation Board, and an active member of the King County preservation community for more than 30 years, I supported the documentation of the Mukai Agricultural Complex and the Save America's Treasures Grant the site received more than a decade ago to preserve the Mukai House and Garden. I am very pleased that the Friends of Mukai have stepped forward to manage the house and garden and am confident that they will be a strong partner with King County in preserving the complex and interpreting the Mukai Family story.

Reuniting the two parcels of the Mukai Agricultural Complex would be a fitting memorial to the Japanese American community that was shattered as a result of E.O. 9066. Their contributions to King County deserve to be recognized through the preservation of this important site, especially as so many other sites associated with their history have been obliterated by development.

Thank you for your support of historic preservation in King County.

Sincerely,

Stephanie S. Toothman, Ph.D.  
242 9<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Washington, DC 20002  
(after June 1: 3527 East Spruce Street, Seattle, WA 98122)