

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive  
401 Fifth Ave., Ste. 800  
Seattle, WA 98104

Joe McDermott  
Chair, King County Council  
516 Third Ave., Ste. 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: King Co. purchase of the Mukai Fruit Barreling Plant

Dear Executive Constantine and Councilman McDermott:

I am writing on behalf of the Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League in support of the King County acquisition of the Mukai Barreling Plant on Vashon Island. As the United States Oldest and Largest Asian American Civil Rights Organization, the JACL recognizes the historic significance that the Mukai property holds within the Puget Sound area. This property helps to tell the story of Japanese Americans within our region, and as such needs to be preserved so that our story can continue to be told.

Had B.D. Mukai not immigrated to the United States, we would not see the lasting local and national impacts that the barreling plant has had. The Mukai family was lucky that they had a trusted steward who could run their business during the incarceration period, and unlike so many other Japanese Americans, were able to return to their business. The Mukai property exemplifies the hard work and commitment that generations of Japanese Americans have put into our country, and truly shows how important it is that we keep our doors open to immigrants. In light of recent political events, it is critical now more than ever that we not forget the history and legacy behind Japanese American incarceration and the impacts it had on those who were forced to endure it.

With the two parcels of land reunited and structures restored, this presents a unique opportunity for cultural and educational experiences for the community and those who visit the site. The Seattle JACL is in favor of this acquisition and thanks you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Baker". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Sarah Baker

Seattle JACL President