



August 13, 2012

The Honorable Christine Gregoire
Governor of the State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON DOWNTOWN FLOOD PROTECTION AND REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Dear Governor Gregoire:

The Economic Development Association of Skagit County supports the City of Mount Vernon's efforts to acquire funding for Phase III of the Mount Vernon Downtown Flood Protection at Riverfront Trail enabling the completion of this vital project.

One of the keys to develop this region's future economy is to ensure that downtown Mount Vernon is a vibrant commercial center. For the local citizenry and for the potential tourism draw, a vibrant downtown is essential.

Annually the City gears up for potential flooding that could ravage the downtown as well as essential facilities such as the County Courthouse, jail, Interstate 5, the BNSF rail line, post office, city hall and the new water treatment plant. The threat also makes future investment in the downtown a challenging proposition.

With 6.5 million people within a 100 mile radius of Mount Vernon and the third largest river in the western United States running through it, downtown Mount Vernon is poised for the type of revitalization that would create an economic hub for the region.

But it requires this phase to complete the project.

With this protection additional jobs will be generated, additional housing will be created and the tax base will be improved.

We so appreciate your consideration of this request.

Thank you,

Don Wick
Executive Director