

**August 21, 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:

Skagit Valley College is pleased to support the City of Mount Vernon's efforts to obtain funding for Phase III of the Mount Vernon Downtown Flood Protection Project and Riverfront Trail enabling the completion of this transformational project.

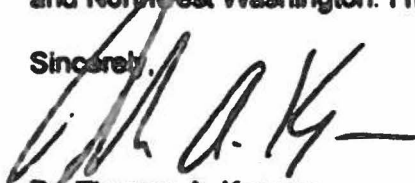
This essential project is well on its way with the successful completion of Phase I and Phase II slated to be completed by the end of 2013. Both Phases not only provide the benefit of physical flood protection to the historic downtown but also create a vibrant and active public space along the Skagit River to be enjoyed by our residents and visitors alike.

As you might remember, the City of Mount Vernon received a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA that recognizes the project's effectiveness in removing Mount Vernon's historic downtown from the 100-year floodplain and providing certified flood protection.

With 100-year certified flood protection, downtown Mount Vernon can redevelop into a vibrant urban center that is connected to the City's historic roots as a waterfront based commercial center. It is anticipated that the flood protection and improved access to the river which is incorporated into the design of the flood project, new and upgraded amenities, and mixed-use redevelopment will generate jobs and create housing and an improved commercial tax base while preserving the character of downtown Mount Vernon.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for all that you do to improve Skagit County and Northeast Washington. I hope that you will lend your support to this critical project.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas A. Keegan  
President