

August 24, 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 Regional Health, including Skagit Valley Hospital and Skagit Regional Clinics, 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.

As a member of the Mount Vernon Leadership Group, I have been kept apprised of the progress of this much-needed project and wholeheartedly endorse moving it forward.

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. Skagit Regional Health leases office space in downtown Mount Vernon and we understand the vital importance of maintaining a viable downtown by protecting the area from flooding. 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 Northwest Washington. I hope that you will lend your support to this critical project.

Sincerely,



Gregg A. Davidson, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer

