

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

July 17, 2008

Michael Linde
Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance
National Park Service
909 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-1060

RE: North Kitsap Trails Association's Application for RTCA planning assistance

Dear Mr. Linde,

I am pleased to write to you in support of North Kitsap Trails Association's (NKTA) application for RTCA planning assistance. NKTA plans to construct a multi-use trail system as part of a water-based trail system and kayak routes in North Kitsap. In an effort to add value to its 8,000 acres in North Kitsap, Olympic Property Group (OPG), a Pope Resources Company, has created the "String of Pearls" - a common vision for a trail that would serve both recreation and non-motorized transportation needs, provide a system of permanent wildlife corridors and watchable wildlife opportunities. This trail network would fulfill a segment of the countywide plan for the *Mosquito Fleet Trail (MFT)*, which will eventually link Kitsap County's cities and communities, eleven public schools, numerous city, county and state parks as well as Suquamish Tribal Land together in a rich historical trail embracing the legacy of the Mosquito Fleet. The culmination of these trails will bring riders from all over the country to the Pacific Northwest as it fulfills a critical link to other area federally designated trails and national parks; the Olympic Peninsula Discovery Trail, Snoqualmie Valley Trail, Iron Horse (John Wayne Trail), making it possible to cross the entire state. These trails would intersect with two major continental bicycle routes from coast to coast and a second from Canada to Mexico.

I support NKTA's application for RTCA planning assistance. The organization will provide vital trail access to citizens that will increase retention the community's ability to utilize and appreciate all that the North Kitsap area has to offer.

Please keep Melanie Mihara of my Seattle office informed of NKTA's application status. Melanie can be reached by phone at 206-220-6400 or by email at Melanie_Mihara@cantwell.senate.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
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2930 WETMORE AVENUE
SUITE 9B
EVERETT, WA 98201
(425) 303-0114
FAX: (425) 303-8351 | <input type="checkbox"/> RICHLAND
825 JADWIN AVENUE
SUITE 204/204A
RICHLAND, WA 99352
(509) 946-8106
FAX: (509) 946-6937 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEATTLE
JACKSON FEDERAL BUILDING
915 2ND AVENUE, SUITE 3206
SEATTLE, WA 98174-1003
(206) 220-6400
TOLL FREE: 1-888-648-7328
FAX: (206) 220-6404 | <input type="checkbox"/> SPOKANE
U.S. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE
WEST 920 RIVERSIDE, SUITE 697
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311 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705
202) 224-3441
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