

03/30/98

Introduced By: Louise Miller  
Chris Vance

slo

Proposed No.: 98-201

MOTION NO. **10436**

1  
2 A MOTION establishing the 1998 federal legislative agenda  
3 for King County.

4  
5 WHEREAS, the joint King County Legislative Steering committee has the  
6 responsibility to recommend a state and federal lobbying agenda to the Committee of the  
7 Whole and then to the full council, and to coordinate the county's federal and state  
8 legislative activities in order to carry out that agenda, and

9 WHEREAS, the metropolitan King County council and the King County executive  
10 have worked through the joint King County Legislative Steering Committee to develop a  
11 federal legislative agenda and desire to bring their positions on issues facing the 105th.  
12 Congress to the attention of the United States Congress, and

13 WHEREAS, King County desires to work cooperatively with other local  
14 governments and other organizations such as the National Association of Counties, the  
15 American Public Transit Association, the American Association of State Highway and  
16 Transportation Officials, the American Public Works Association, the National Association  
17 of County Engineers, the Association of Washington Cities, the Washington Transit  
18 Association, Regional Transit Authority, Washington Association of County Officials and

1 the Washington State Association of Counties to achieve its 1998 federal legislative goals,  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, counties have been recognized by Congress as partners with the  
4 federal government in the delivery of such critical services as transportation, criminal  
5 justice, public health, community and human services and water resources, and

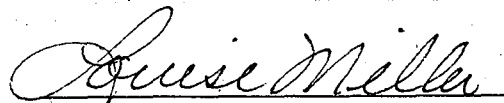
6 WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive will continue  
7 to review legislative developments for possible revisions of King County's 1998 federal  
8 legislative program;

9 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

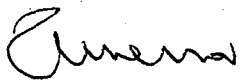
10 The specific objectives set forth in the attachment to this motion are King County's highest  
11 priorities for passage during the 105th United States Congress.

12  
13 PASSED by a vote of 13 to 0 this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April  
14 1998.

15 KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
16 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

17   
18 Chair

19 ATTEST:

20   
21 Clerk of the Council

22 Attachment: 1998 King County Federal Legislative Agenda and Action Plan, dated March  
23 30, 1998

**1998 KING COUNTY  
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND ACTION PLAN**

**AGRICULTURE**

- ◆ Assist King County in seeking federal participation in the establishment of State Enhancement Program (SEP) for the State of Washington. Establishment of a SEP will enable the State of Washington to overcome the barriers to greater participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the nation's largest conservation program administered by the federal government. In addition, establishment of a SEP will allow the State to tailor the CRP so that it will more effectively address the State's unique conservation challenges, particularly as they relate to salmon habitat protection and restoration.

**ENERGY**

- ◆ Secure additional appropriations (requesting \$5,625,000) from EPA for the 1-Megawatt King County Fuel Cell Demonstration Project.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

- ◆ Support adoption of an amendment to Superfund that would exempt Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW's) from liability under Superfund.
- ◆ Support adoption of federal flow control legislation.

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)**

- ◆ Seek modifications to FEMA's interim policy barring reimbursement for the cost of replanting trees and shrubs as part of repairs made to river facilities, detention/retention areas, water quality sites and stream and river bank stabilization areas.
- ◆ Seek variance for Pacific Northwest to Corps of Engineers and FEMA disaster assistance eligibility criteria. Currently, levees and other flood works that contain vegetation are ineligible for assistance from the Corps for under P.L. 84-99 and FEMA funding for repairs under the Stafford Act.
- ◆ Identify opportunities for federal funding to improve the seismic reliability of public facilities in those regions of King County that face a serious threat of damage during an earthquake.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

- ◆ Discussing with the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Labor about the County's welfare demonstration program, as well as the congressional delegation in order to obtain support and funding assistance from the various federal agencies and the congressional delegation.
- ◆ Assisting the County's Departments of Human Services and Public Health to develop a program on a pilot basis that involves mental health, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS.
- ◆ Continued updates on welfare, child care, and health legislation and initiatives.

**HOUSING**

- ◆ Assist in forming a coalition and designing a strategy to upgrade the Covington Housing Project and seek funding to improve the water system.
- ◆ Seek and support revisions to the tax code to support homeownership for households earning 120% of median income or less.
- ◆ Seek appropriations and tax code revisions to support a King County Housing Land Trust to purchase land to construct owner-occupied housing for moderate- and median-income households.
- ◆ Support efforts by the local, state and national Association of Realtors to pass legislation which prohibits lenders from requiring home mortgage insurance once homeowners have 22% or more equity in their homes.
- ◆ Seek increases in homeless assistance funding, and ensure that the proposed legislation to "block grant" the funding to local jurisdictions includes a "hold harmless" provision for the Seattle-King County area to give local jurisdictions greater funding and flexibility; support measures to enact public housing reform; oppose efforts to weaken Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act that would allow local governments to effectively prohibit group homes but support provisions that allow cities and counties to encourage dispersal of such facilities in neighborhoods throughout the city and the county in a fair and equitable manner; support maintenance and increases in appropriation levels for CDBG, HOME, Homeless assistance, public housing operating subsidies, rental certificates/vouchers, and Section 8 contract renewals; and, support expansion of the private activity bond cap and low income housing tax credit program.

**TRANSPORTATION**

- ◆ Secure funding (\$28.8 million requested) in the ISTEA reauthorization bill for the I-90 / Sunset Interchange.

Secure in the following in FY99 Transportation Appropriations

- (1) \$10 million for park and ride lot facilities at Federal Way and Eastgate
  - (2) \$3 million for to complete financing of two pedestrian bridge connections between transit facilities. These improvements are part of SR 519 (formerly Kingmaker).
  - (3) \$1 million in capital improvements for the Elliot Bay Water Taxi
  - (4) Awareness of the need to rehabilitate Evergreen Floating Bridge.
- ◆ Assist in gaining recognition and funding (\$90 million requested in ISTEA) for the FAST Corridor and freight mobility in general.

**WATER**

- ◆ Secure planning funds (up to \$1,000,000) from the Bureau of Reclamation to identify the various reclaimed water opportunities for King County.
- ◆ Puget Sound Initiative. The Initiative represents a comprehensive proposal to secure at least \$140 million in federal funding over the next four years to purchase and restore critical salmon habitat in the Puget Sound watershed and to promote the recovery of anadromous fish.

The Puget Sound Initiative has the following components:

- Seek federal funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other agencies with flood hazard mitigation programs to support the removal of structures within the flood plain and the restoration of important habitat.

For Fiscal Year 1999:

- Secure \$15 million from the US Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service for the acquisition and restoration of key habitat in King, Snohomish and Pierce Counties as well as the other Counties in the Puget Sound Region.
- Secure \$3 million for the USFWS or NMFS to initiate ESA-related studies and planning, including studies of the effects of urbanization on salmon habitat and of watershed priorities for habitat acquisition and restoration.
- Secure \$2 million for the Corps of Engineers to initiate a study of habitat acquisition and restoration priorities throughout Puget Sound..
- Secure \$3 million for the National Marine Fisheries Service to support ESA activities in the Northwest Region.
- Secure a minimum of \$2.5 million to support initial tribal involvement in ESA-related planning and response activities.

- Secure \$4.1 million in additional funding for completion of Corps of Engineers ecosystem restoration and protection projects under Section 1135.
- Secure an additional \$225,000 for the Corps to continue work on Snoqualmie flood control problems.

For Fiscal Years 2000 to 2002:

- Secure an additional authorization for \$45-60 million for Corps of Engineers habitat restoration projects related to the Endangered Species Act listings through the Water Resources Development Act of 1998. Existing authorization for the remaining \$60-80 million in USFWS or NMFS costs already exists.

## **GRANTS**

The Ferguson Group researches federal grant opportunities for the county on a regular basis. Prospects are searched for in the Federal Register, on the Internet and World Wide Web, and in various grant publications. As grant opportunities are identified and reviewed they are distributed to the county electronically when possible, or by Federal Express.

If the county is interested in a specific grant, the guidelines, application materials and a previously successful application (if applicable) are forwarded. Subsequent phone calls and meetings occur to discuss the grant with the appropriate federal agency. The county is given information gathered from these activities.

After the County has applied, The Ferguson Group works with the congressional delegation to garner letters of support. The letters are followed by contact with the federal agency to determine the approximate time of grant announcement and the status of the County's application.

If the County's application is successful, The Ferguson Group works with the federal agency to expedite allocation of the grant award. If the County's application is unsuccessful, we meet with the federal agency to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the application and then work with the County to prepare for the next funding opportunity. Examples of grant work to be done for the County include Brownfields Showcase Community designation and Welfare-to-Work.

## **MONITOR AND REPORT**

The Ferguson Group monitors federal legislation and regulations continuously and reports to the County the status of these activities when significant. The Ferguson Group also notifies the

County when participation in the process is beneficial to the County. Some of the issues in which the County has expressed a particular interest include the following:

- ◆ Affirmative Action
- ◆ Clean Water Act
- ◆ Devolution
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Flow Control
- ◆ Forestry
- ◆ ISTEA Reauthorization
- ◆ Job Training
- ◆ Medicaid Reform
- ◆ Public Health
- ◆ Uniform Building Codes
- ◆ Using Credit Cards To Pay Taxes
- ◆ Welfare Reform
- ◆ Wetlands