



City of Seattle
Office of the Mayor

February 22, 2011

Honorable Richard Conlin
President
Seattle City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor

Dear Council President Conlin:

I am pleased to forward the attached Resolution seeking Council approval of the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission's (SEEC's) 2011 budget for its fiscal year of April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012. The Commission was established in 1984 as part of an 80-year agreement between the City of Seattle and the Province of British Columbia relating to a proposed "High Ross Dam". Earnings from the endowment plus annual supplemental payments by Seattle and British Columbia, set by treaty, allow the Commission to support a variety of educational and environmental projects in the upper Skagit watershed. Although its funds come from an endowment and are separate from City funds, the agreement requires SEEC to submit its annual budget to the Seattle City Council for review and approval.

SEEC continues to work in partnership with the National Park Service, the North Cascades Institute, British Columbia natural resource agencies, the Student Conservation Association, and the Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning. A 5-year work-plan has been developed that outlines funding priorities for education, ecosystem management, land management, and recreation. The 2011 SEEC budget carries forward a contingent allocation of \$1 million to support land protection measures in the Skagit watershed in British Columbia and to support grizzly bear recovery in the watershed.

SEEC will not act on its 2011 budget proposal until it receives City Council approval. Please call Lynn Best (Seattle City Light) at 386-4586 if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Michael McGinn
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council