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www.awcnet.org

November 2, 2011

Governor Chris Gregoire
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

We in cities and towns understand the state’s serious budget dilemma and sympathize with the difficulties you face. However, we are extremely disappointed to see the depth and breadth of your “preliminary choice” budget cuts targeting cities and towns. These deep cuts are intolerable and, we feel, do not reflect our longstanding partnership. For example, eliminating the distribution of state liquor taxes and profits after over 70 years of continuous sharing, and breaking the commitment to temporarily help fund services in cities that annexed large areas, are simply unacceptable.


We’ve encountered similar difficulties and revenue shortfalls. Since 2008 and in some cases earlier, cities and towns have responded to the economic crises by cutting programs and personnel to balance our budgets. Our citizens are already feeling these impacts.

As city and town officials, we view ourselves as partners with the state in providing essential public services to citizens. Many laws passed in Olympia are carried out and enforced by our police, fire fighters, service personnel, and other local providers. Conversely, for every dollar cut in money to local health services, it is our shelters, hospitals, and jails that must cope with the consequences. When the state cuts programs and services, cities and towns bear the burden of filling that service gap.

Given our partnership, we want to work with you to help the state meet its budget goals. Instead of firing salvos at one another, we should be working together to stimulate economic recovery. We need to continue the constructive dialogue you’ve nurtured with local governments over the course of your service to Washington. In that vein, we ask that you meet immediately with a delegation of city representatives to discuss how we can move forward for the benefit of the people we mutually serve. Our representatives at the Association of Washington Cities will work with your staff to schedule the meeting.


Respectfully,


Patrick Rushing
Mayor, City of Airway Heights



Peter Lewis
Mayor, City of Auburn


Don Davidson
Mayor, City of Bellevue



Margaret Larson
Mayor, City of Arlington


Dan Pike
Mayor, City of Bellingham



Betty Barnes
Mayor, City of Bingen

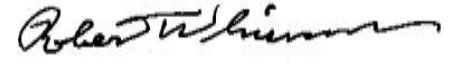

Rebecca Olness
Mayor, City of Black Diamond



Richie Morgan
Mayor, Town of Carbonado


Craig George
Mayor, City of Dayton



Bonnie Onyon
Mayor, City of Blaine



Paul Helenberg
Mayor, City of Castle Rock


Robert Whisman
Mayor, City of Deer Park



Neil Johnson
Mayor, City of Bonney Lake


Harlan Thompson
Mayor, City of Centralia


Robert F. Sheckler
Mayor, City of Des Moines



Mark Lamb
Mayor, City of Bothell


Bob Goedde
Mayor, City of Chelan



Tamara Jenkins
Mayor, City of DuPont

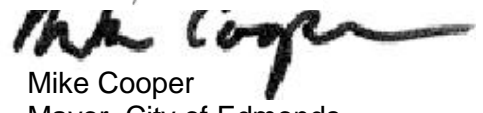

Patty Lent
Mayor, City of Bremerton


Tom Trulove
Mayor, City of Cheney



Steven Lacy
Mayor, City of East Wenatchee

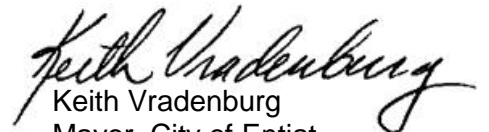

Lee Webster
Mayor, City of Brewster



Donna Engle
Mayor, City of Clarkston

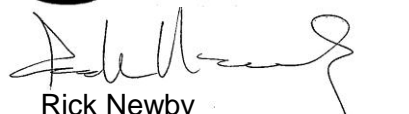

Mike Cooper
Mayor, City of Edmonds


William Zweigle
Mayor, City of Bridgeport



George Martin
Mayor, City of Clyde Hill


Keith Vradenburg
Mayor, City of Entiat


Bob Colinas
Mayor, City of Brier



Rick Newby
Mayor, City of College Place

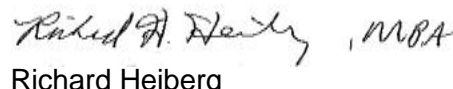

Liz Reynolds
Mayor, City of Enumclaw

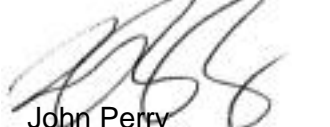

Pat Johnson
Mayor, City of Buckley



Gary Walton
Mayor, City of Connell


Ray Stephanson
Mayor, City of Everett



Joan McGilton
Mayor, City of Burien


Richard Heiberg
Mayor, Town of Coulee City


John Perry
Mayor, City of Everson


Scott Higgins
Mayor, City of Camas


Margaret Harto
Mayor, City of Covington


Skip Priest
Mayor, City of Federal Way

Barry Johnson
Mayor, City of Fife

Thomas Nelson
Mayor, City of Lacey

Shawn McEvoy
Mayor, City of Normandy Park

Bryon Monohon
Mayor, City of Forks

David Hutchinson
Mayor, City of Lake Forest Park

Jim Slowik
Mayor, City of Oak Harbor

Charles Hunter
Mayor, City of Gig Harbor

Douglas Richardson
Mayor, City of Lakewood

Doug Plinski
Mayor, Town of Odessa

Norm Childress
Mayor, City of Grandview

Teresa Galvin
Mayor, Town of Latah

Doug Mah
Mayor, City of Olympia

Barbara Harrer
Mayor, Town of Harrah

Wendy Van Orman
Mayor, City of Liberty Lake

Cindy Gagne
Mayor, City of Omak

Jack Durney
Mayor, City of Hoquiam

Kurt Anagnostou
Mayor, City of Longview

Cheryl Temple
Mayor, City of Orting

Mike Cassinelli
Mayor, City of Ilwaco

Noel Gerken
Mayor, City of Maple Valley

Michael Echanove
Mayor, City of Palouse

David Baker
Mayor, City of Kenmore

Jon Nehring
Mayor, City of Marysville

Spencer Nichols
Mayor, Town of Pe Ell

Steve Young
Mayor, City of Kennewick

Jon Lane
Mayor, City of Moses Lake

Alan Gould
Mayor, City of Pomeroy

Suzette Cooke
Mayor, City of Kent

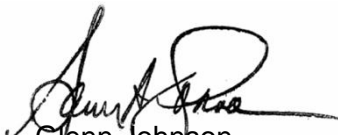
Jerry Smith
Mayor, City of Mountlake Terrace


Larry Coppola
Mayor, City of Port Orchard

Joan McBride
Mayor, City of Kirkland


Joe Marine
Mayor, City of Mukilteo


Paul Warden
Mayor, City of Prosser



Glenn Johnson
Mayor, City of Pullman



Don Gerend
Mayor, City of Sammamish



James De Vere
Mayor, Town of South Cle Elum



Kathy R. Turner
Mayor, City of Puyallup


Terry Anderson
Mayor, City of SeaTac



Mary B. Verner
Mayor, City of Spokane



Jim Hembery
Mayor, City of Quincy



Mike McGinn
Mayor, City of Seattle



Ron Lucas
Mayor, Town of Steilacoom



Bob Jungar
Mayor, City of Raymond

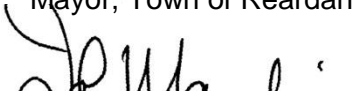

Mike Anderson
Mayor, City of Sedro-Woolley


Bob Bromley
Mayor, City of Sumas



Sherman Johnson
Mayor, Town of Reardan

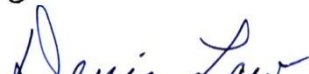

Ken Hays
Mayor, City of Sequim


David Enslow
Mayor, City of Sumner



John Marchione
Mayor, City of Redmond



John Tarrant
Mayor, City of Shelton

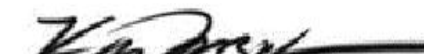

Jim Restucci
Mayor, City of Sunnyside

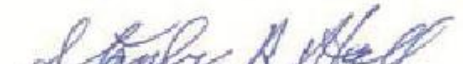

Denis Law
Mayor, City of Renton

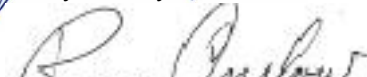

Keith McGlashan
Mayor, City of Shoreline



Marilyn Strickland
Mayor, City of Tacoma

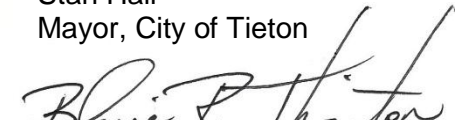

John Fox
Mayor, City of Richland

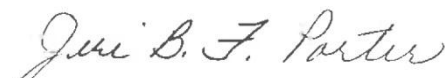

Karen Guzak
Mayor, City of Snohomish



Stan Hall
Mayor, City of Tieton



Ronald Onslow
Mayor, City of Ridgefield



Matt Larson
Mayor, City of Snoqualmie



Blaine Thorington
Mayor, City of Toppenish


Jeri-Francisco Porter
Mayor, City of Roslyn


Wayne Hovde
Mayor, City of Soap Lake


Jim Haggerton
Mayor, City of Tukwila



Karen Yates
Mayor, City of Roy



Peggy Levesque
Mayor, Town of South Prairie



Debbie Klosowski
Mayor, City of University Place



Tim Leavitt
Mayor, City of Vancouver


Donna Noski
Mayor, City of West Richland

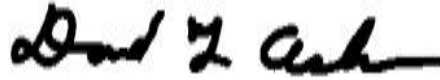

Carla Nichols
Mayor, Town of Woodway



Walt Gobel
Mayor, City of Waitsburg



Michael Bruce
Mayor, City of Westport


James Weldon
Mayor, Town of Yacolt


Sean Guard
Mayor, City of Washougal


Dave Acheson
Mayor, Town of Winthrop


David Cooper
Mayor, Town of Yarrow Point


Dennis Johnson
Mayor, City of Wenatchee

cc: Senator Lisa Brown
Senator Mike Hewitt
Representative Frank Chopp
Representative Richard DeBolt
Senator Ed Murray
Senator Joseph Zarelli
Representative Ross Hunter
Representative Gary Alexander