



Kathy Lambert

Metropolitan King County Council Representative
District Three

April 4, 2007

Congressman Dave Reichert
U.S. House of Representatives
1223 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Snoqualmie Pass Land Conveyance Act

Dear Congressman Reichert,

In response to requests from King/Kittitas Counties Fire District #51 (Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue), I would like to request your support for HR 1285, the Snoqualmie Pass Land Conveyance Act.

The fire district does not have the resources to purchase land for a desperately needed new fire station to replace the current building that originally was erected in the 1930s as a maintenance shed for the state Department of Transportation. The current facility is too small to serve the growing needs of the fire district adequately, and suffers from deficiencies such as snow sliding off the roof and blocking the driveway when the siren sounds. The steep access to the facility also contributes to response problems in the winter.

With 24 dedicated volunteer firefighter/EMTs, the fire district serves a community of 350 full-time residents that grows to 1,500 during the ski season. Additionally, the ski area hosts about 20,000 visitors on a busy weekend, and the Department of Transportation estimates that up to 60,000 vehicles travel through the fire district on a busy day. That makes I-90 the busiest mountain highway in the country. The fire district also serves motorists who are stranded by rockslides and avalanche control activities. Volunteers respond to more than 300 calls a year, and the district experiences an average 10 percent increase in call volumes annually, with 84 percent of the responses involving non-residents who don't pay taxes into the district.

In order to avoid disrupting emergency services, the fire district proposes to build a new and larger fire station on nearby U.S. Forest Service land that is surplus and available for this use. Because of the district's limited resources, and to serve the growing need for

King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue, Room 1200, Seattle, WA 98104-3272

(206) 296-1003 Toll Free 800-325-6165

TTY/TDD (206) 296-1024 FAX (206) 296-0198

www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/members/d3 email: kathy.lambert@metrokc.gov

emergency services in this area, it would be prudent for the Forest Service to convey the surplus property to the fire district for the purpose of constructing a new facility.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to support the Snoqualmie Pass Land Conveyance Act, and please contact me for more information if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Lambert".

Kathy Lambert
Metropolitan King County Council
District 3

cc: Congressman Doc Hastings
Senator Maria Cantwell
Chris Caviezel, Fire District #51