

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Philip Morley, County Administrator

FROM: Leslie Locke, Deputy Clerk of the Board

DATE: January 10, 2011

SUBJECT: Letter of Support to Restore Funding to State Parks and Community Colleges for the Restoration of Fort Worden State Park, Building 202; Senator Jim Hargrove and Representative Steve Tharinger

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Letter of Support to Restore Funding to State Parks and Community Colleges for the Restoration of Fort Worden State Park, Building 202; Senator Jim Hargrove and Representative Steve Tharinger

ANALYSIS:

Commissioner Johnson has drafted a letter of support for the Restoration of Fort Worden State Park, Building 202 Funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Letter of Support to Restore Funding to State Parks and Community Colleges for the Restoration of Fort Worden State Park, Building 202; Senator Jim Hargrove and Representative Steve Tharinger.

REVIEWED BY:

Philip Morley, County Administrator

Date

January 10, 2011

Representative Steve Tharinger
P.O. Box 834
Sequim, WA 98382

Senator Jim Hargrove
411 Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40424
Olympia, WA 98504-0424

Dear Senator Hargrove and Representative Tharinger,

We strongly urge the legislature to restore sufficient funds to the capital budgets for State Parks and Community Colleges for the restoration of Building 202 in Fort Worden State Park to allow for the realization of a multi-use, flexible, collaborative college center. Community Colleges had listed the renovation of Building 202 at the top of their requests for the 2011-2013 biennium. The renovation was number two for State Parks. Each had earmarked \$2 million for this essential project. The City of Port Townsend has committed \$500,000.

Jefferson County remains among Western Washington's most under served populations per capita in terms of adult education (37% below the statewide average) due to its isolation from college facilities. A public-private partnership is already in place to make efficient use of the college center. Peninsula College would provide programs for AA degrees. Goddard College is bringing all of its four year BA programs and will also offer Masters degrees.

The Fort Worden campus already has the infrastructure in place to support a renovated college center, including eating facilities, transportation services and technology infrastructures. The proposal has the full support of Fort Worden as it complies with the "lifelong learning center" strategy for the Fort.

This unique college center is a top economic development strategy for Jefferson County. Please restore the funds to the capital budgets of community colleges and State Parks for the renovation of Building 202. We look forward to your support for this project as well as the continued support for remote learning services in Jefferson County.

Sincerely,

John Austin, Chairman

Phil Johnson, Member

David Sullivan, Member