



## NORTH THURSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Math & Science • 305 College Street NE • Lacey, Washington 98503  
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February 16, 2024

To: Sonja Cady  
Thurston County  
Land Use Clerk

RE: Planned Improvements and Activities at 4849 Johnson Point Road NE, Olympia, WA 98516

Dear Community Planning and Economic Development Department,

I would like to express my support for the planned improvements and activities at Capitol Land Trust's Inspiring Kids Preserve (IKP) located at 4849 Johnson Point Road NE, Olympia, WA 98516.

In North Thurston Public Schools, we prioritize hands-on, field-based science that includes habitat and adaptations study, water quality testing, climate literacy, first-hand experience with local environmental issues, and service-learning restoration activities. Engaging students in both meaningful and "real" science that is making a difference in their local Puget Sound watershed connects our students' in-class learning with real-life and locally relevant issues resulting in increased engagement both in school and their community. This wouldn't be possible without access to ecologically significant natural spaces.

As an educator, a member of the community, and an engaged partner with Capitol Land Trust, I am in favor of the above referenced property being used to provide environmental education for local school children. I believe it is important to give young people in Thurston County experiences that help them form strong connections with the natural world in order to keep our region a wonderful place to live for humans and wildlife alike. Additionally, myself and others in the community would also enjoy having access to a conserved property such as IKP to take walks and enjoy time in nature.

Thank you for your efforts to help create additional public recreation areas and open space while also protecting important green spaces in Thurston County for both people and wildlife.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce L. Mackiewicz".

Joyce Mackiewicz; Director of Math, Science, BEST Mentoring Program and Highly Capable Programs  
North Thurston Public Schools; [jmackiewicz@nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:jmackiewicz@nthurston.k12.wa.us)  
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