



February 21, 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 am writing on behalf of the Pacific Education Institute (PEI) to express my support for the planned improvements and activities at your Inspiring Kids Preserve (IKP) property located at 4849 Johnson Point Road NE, Olympia, WA 98516.

As a member of the community and an engaged partner with Capitol Land Trust, I am in favor of this property being used to provide environmental education for local school children. I believe it is important to give ALL young people in Thurston County experiences that help them form strong connections with the natural world to keep our region a wonderful place to live for humans and wildlife alike.

Elevating environmental awareness and knowledge among K-12 students is a foundational step toward nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious and civically minded communities. As a leader in environmental and sustainability education in Washington State, PEI promotes scientific literacy and civic engagement by empowering people to make balanced, well-informed decisions for just and sustainable communities. We specialize in professional learning and FieldSTEM implementation. We believe all students have the right to equitable environmental and sustainability education and work closely with community partners like Capitol Land Trust to make this work systemic and accessible.

It is important for members of the community to have access to ecologically significant natural spaces. As an Olympian myself, I would also enjoy having access to a conserved property such as IKP to walk and enjoy time in nature in addition to facilitating our programs.

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. On behalf of the Pacific Education Institute, I hope you will act favorably on the Capitol Land Trust's Special Use Permit request. We see this as a powerful opportunity to magnify practices which directly impact youth. Please feel free to reach me at [ltukarski@pacifieducationinstitute.org](mailto:ltukarski@pacifieducationinstitute.org) or (360) 515-7039 for further questions.

Sincerely,

Lara Tukarski

South Puget Sound Program Coordinator, WA Project Learning Tree State Coordinator

Pacific Education Institute

[ltukarski@pacifieducationinstitute.org](mailto:ltukarski@pacifieducationinstitute.org) | (360) 515-7039