



Washington State Legislature

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing you today to express our support of renovating and repurposing the Saint Edward Seminary in a manner consistent with the mission of our State Parks. Towards that end, we ask that you protect both the existing recreational and passive uses of the Park, and ensure that any new development is done with the strongest environmental protections taken into consideration. Mitigation elements which should be committed to in the EIS include review by the Parks Commission of how any lessee will enhance Park values and State Park missions, including contributions to trail maintenance and public access to renovated historic structures, at the time of any lease transfer and on a regular basis, e.g., every five years.

Saint Edward State Park is a jewel in our Legislative District. It is heavily used by families, hikers, picnickers, concert goers, and athletic teams. It is a regional asset whose importance cannot be underestimated. The Daniels' proposal has many worthy goals, but we hope that the impacts to current parks users, especially when considered along with the proposed renovation of the playfields across the way by the City of Kenmore, are taken into account as this project is evaluated. Parking management should be carefully considered, as the proposal will bring in new traffic, and possibly displace current park users. Every effort should be made to ensure that current park users experience is not negatively impacted. Parking should not impinge on current forested areas or habitat, including north of the existing gym. To meet parking requirements without impacting environmental and outdoor recreational values, the EIS should consider inclusion of public, non-hotel, parking in the proposed garage.

We are encouraged that the Commission has been engaged in discussions to include a resource or educational center for environmental and outdoor education, which could include training of outdoor and environmental educators as well as serving youth in the region. This concept should also be explored in this EIS, including use of both space in the seminary building and ancillary buildings and outdoor areas. This proposal could bring substantial environmental and public benefits to the development proposal.

We also hope that every consideration will be given to minimizing any environmental impacts by the project. Saint Edward is a diverse ecosystem, with streams running through it to Lake Washington, and a variety of birds, mammals, and flora throughout the park. We hope that you will take every effort to ensure that our water is protected, and that the ecosystem around the project is minimally impacted.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this important project.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jessyn Farrell
46th Legislative District

Sen. David Frockt
46th Legislative District

Rep. Gerry Pollet
46th Legislative District