

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)

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November 30, 2010

Julie Meredith, PE
SR 520 Program Director
SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program
Washington State Department of Transportation
600 Stewart Street, Suite 520
Seattle, Washington 98101

Dear Ms. Meredith,

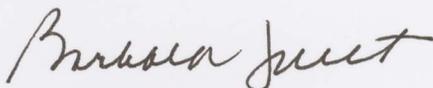
The Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) is pleased to write this letter in support of the Washington Park Arboretum Mitigation Plan that we developed in consultation with the WSDOT team in response to ESSB 6392. The mitigation projects contained in this Plan were guided by the 2001 Arboretum Master Plan. Once this plan is approved and funded, these projects will finally become reality.

The ABGC is the advisory committee for the Arboretum and is comprised of the owners and managers of the Arboretum: the City of Seattle; University of Washington; its major support organization, the Arboretum Foundation; and a representative from the Washington State Governor's office. From May to December of this year we met regularly with WSDOT staff to develop a suite of mitigation measures we feel will protect and enhance the Arboretum for generations to come.

Throughout our discussions, we were guided by the 2001 Arboretum Master Plan and stressed the importance of protecting the Arboretum as we believe it is one of the most respected and loved educational and cultural resources in the Pacific Northwest. When the original SR 520 was built, environmental regulations protecting park land and wetlands were not in place and the Arboretum suffered damage and property loss. This mitigation process gave us the opportunity to design a new SR 520 that will protect the Arboretum from excessive traffic volumes along Lake Washington Boulevard, address traffic safety concerns, and reduce noise and aesthetic effects in the States' Arboretum.

We appreciate the time and energy your capable staff put into working with us and writing this report. The time was very well spent and we look forward to our continuing collaboration with you and your staff as we implement these projects in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Barbara Wright, Chair
Arboretum Botanical Garden Committee