



June 27, 2017

Chair Sullivan & Members of the Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Chair Sullivan & Members of the County Council,

The Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO) is pleased to provide this letter in support of the Snohomish Conservation District's proposed changes to their existing rate structure. The LIO serves as a local forum through which diverse stakeholders can work collaboratively to develop and coordinate actions to improve the health of the Snohomish and Stillaguamish watersheds and contribute to recovering Puget Sound. The SCD has been a member of the LIO since its formation and continues to be a key partner in our efforts to restore and protect natural resources. Last year, the SCD submitted 13 Near Term Actions (NTAs) for inclusion in the 2016 Action Agenda. Two of these NTAs were selected for funding; one regionally and one locally. More NTAs are being considered for funding in 2017. These project proposals support the LIO's progress towards the recovery targets of the habitat, stormwater, and shellfish Strategic Initiatives.

The SCD uses the fees they collect to support a variety of conservation programs that help support improvements in water quality, salmon recovery, and agriculture in both watersheds. They leverage funds from a variety of sources to help ensure that the fees they collect have the greatest impact in supporting rate payers and the watersheds in which they reside.

Now more than ever, local revenue sources are critical to advancing conservation in watersheds like the Stillaguamish and Snohomish, given the uncertainty around the long term future of state and federal funding.

The LIO encourages the Snohomish County Council to approve the rate changes proposed by the district.

Thank you for your continued support of the Snohomish Conservation District and the valuable work they do!

Sincerely,

Will Hall

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Executive
Committee Co-Chair

Christie True

Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO Executive
Committee Co-Chair