

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



April 14, 2009

The Honorable Mayor Bud Norris
City of Mount Vernon
910 Cleveland Avenue
P.O. Box 809
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Honorable Mayor Bud Norris,

Thank you for your feedback on HB 1967, the bill to prohibit the expansion of most UGAs into certain 100-year flood plains in Western Washington. We want to let you know that we have heard your concerns and recognize the need for Mount Vernon to develop the property tax base to support the projected growth for your city.

From the very beginning of the legislative session, and before the bill was introduced, Representative Scott White (as the prime sponsor) reached out to the Association of Washington Cities and shared an early draft to solicit comments from the city family. Feedback was received from literally dozens of cities. Over more than two months, between initial contact with AWC and final passage in the House of Representatives, a series of exemptions were developed relating to the specific concerns raised by various cities. At the end of this process a substantive bill was developed that was supported by both the AWC and the environmental community.

Regrettably, Mount Vernon's specific concerns were not brought forward while the bill was in the House. Further, your concerns did not lead to an amendment in the Senate. We have been working together since you raised concerns, but have ultimately been unable to come to agreement on language that will address your situation while maintaining the base intent of the bill to prohibit expansion into floodplains by cities which have other options available.

Given the lateness of the legislative session, and passage of essentially the same bill in both the House and Senate, we support moving forward without further amendments to the bill at this time. However, we pledge to work with the City of Mount Vernon and other stakeholders to refine the approach of this bill in an effort to address situations where the provisions of this legislation prove impractical or unfairly burdensome. Towards that end, we look forward to working with you during the coming interim to develop possible legislation for next session.

Thank you for your willingness to work collaboratively to find a solution to this policy issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rep. Scott White in blue ink.

Rep. Scott White
Prime Sponsor, HB 1967

Handwritten signature of Rep. Geoff Simpson in blue ink.

Rep. Geoff Simpson
Chair, Local Government and Housing Committee

Handwritten signature of Rep. Dave Quall in blue ink.

Rep. Dave Quall
40th Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Rep. Jeff Morris in blue ink.

Rep. Jeff Morris
40th Legislative District

CC: Mount Vernon City Council
Mike Ryherd