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360.617.4643

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360.617.4604

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360.383.2013

MOUNT BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 10, 2023

Dear Whatcom County Councilmembers,

We understand that the Whatcom County Council is considering a letter requesting that the DNR delay approval of the Brokedown Palace timber sale. Mount Baker School District is the largest local recipient of State Forest revenue. State Forest revenue is vital to MBSD, helping make up for our low assessed valuation, since we have almost no commercial or industrial property.

Mount Baker School District depends on a steady flow of timber revenue based on the DNR's sustainable harvest calculation. Much of the State Forest land within MBSD is already off-limits to timber harvest. Timber sales, such as Brokedown Palace, are located on those portions of State Forest land that are designated for forest management and are necessary to meeting the sustainable harvest level. This proposed sale has gone through an extensive review process and is designed to meet all of the state and DNR requirements for harvest. We do not support delaying the sale.

State Forests were established for the purpose of providing revenue to designated beneficiaries, including school districts. We respectfully request that Whatcom County Council consider both the purpose of State Forests, and our on-going need for State Forest revenue in your communications with the DNR.

Sincerely,



Mary Sewright  
Superintendent, Mount Baker School District



Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt  
Board President, Mount Baker School District