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February 10, 2017

Washington State Senators & Representatives

Thank you for your on-going support and advocacy on behalf of the YMCA of Greater Seattle's pending capital projects. Currently, capital funding for a new East Hill YMCA in the city of Kent is under consideration for the Washington State 2017-2019 budget.

We are pleased to share that the Kent East Hill YMCA project has been recommended by the Department of Commerce Youth Recreation Facilities Program Advisory Board, totaling \$1,170,000 and was included in the Governor's capital budget proposal. In addition, the Kent East Hill YMCA project has been recommended by the Department of Commerce Building Community Fund Program Advisory Board, for \$3,000,000, but unfortunately, it was not included in the Governor's capital budget proposal.

**It is critical that the funding for this project is included at the full requested amount of \$4,170,000 in both the Senate and House budgets.** The new Kent YMCA will serve more than 23,000 community members, families and kids annually for generations to come by providing children and teens a place to learn, be active and connected; provide support for disenfranchised and homeless young people; and provide spaces for adults and seniors to become healthier. In addition, the state sales tax generated on the construction costs will significantly exceed the recommended state funding allocation.

We trust the Kent East Hill YMCA project has your full support and the Youth Recreation Facility capital funds will remain a priority for the House and Senate. We also request the addition of the critical Building Communities Funding into the capital budget to ensure kids, families and the entire community have an important resource for years to come. If we can offer any assistance as you advocate for this project please don't hesitate to let me know.

Thank you again for your support and continued advocacy.

Best regards,

Shamso Issak  
Coordinator  
Living Well Kent



Suzette Cooke  
Mayor  
City of Kent



Dr. Calvin Watts  
Superintendent  
Kent School District



Andrea Keikkala  
CEO  
Kent Chamber

