



Seattle City Council

January 21, 2004

Rex Derr, Director
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA. 98504-2669

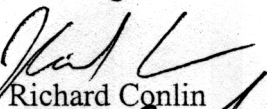
Dear Mr. Derr,

We are writing to ask you to approve the transfer of Old Man House State Park which includes the former home of Chief Sealth, to the Suquamish Tribe. The land, which is the historic home to the Suquamish people, has deep historic and cultural significance to the Tribe. They are committed to maintaining the park as a location of singular historic and cultural importance—and to continuing to keep it open as a park accessible to all.

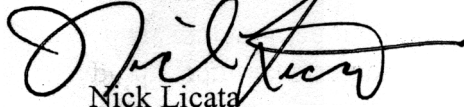
The City of Seattle has a special interest in the family home of our namesake. We also support efforts to do what we can to honor and respect the spiritual and historical heritage of Washington's Tribes. The Tribe recently completed an extensive community involvement process, working closely with Suquamish Olalla Neighbors, a group of tribal and non-tribal residents committed to peacemaking and lasting friendships. After much public comment on how residents would like the park managed, the resulting Park Management Plan incorporates hundreds of comments from all parts of the community.

Under Tribal administration the park will continue to provide a valuable amenity to the larger community. This transfer of the Old Man House State Park back to the Suquamish Tribe, home of Chief Sealth, will mark a significant gesture of righting wrongs. It is appropriate to do this on the 100th anniversary of the year the land was taken from the Suquamish people. Let this be the year of a profound kind of peacemaking, and return the park and land back to the Suquamish tribe.

Best Regards,



Richard Conlin



Nick Licata



Richard J. McIver



Peter Steinbrueck

cc: The Honorable Governor Gary Locke
P.O.Box 40002, Olympia, WA. 98504-0002

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