



Washington Association of Churches

The Rev. John C. Boonstra, Executive Minister
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Members

African Methodist Episcopal
Pacific Northwest Conference

American Baptist Churches
of the Northwest

The Northwest Region of the
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Church of the Brethren
Oregon/Washington District

The Episcopal Church
Diocese of Olympia

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod
Northwest Washington Synod
Southwestern Washington Synod

Evergreen Baptist Association

Presbyterian Church (USA)
Synod of Alaska Northwest

United Church of Christ
Pacific Northwest Conference

United Methodist Church
Pacific NW Annual Conference

Cooperating Members

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The Episcopal Church
Diocese of Spokane

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Tacoma/Pierce County

Associated Ministries of
Thurston County

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Greater Seattle

Church Women United,
Washington Northern Idaho

Church World Service,
Pacific Northwest Region

Gorge Ecumenical Ministries

The Greater Vancouver
Interfaith Association

Intercommunity Peace
& Justice Center

The Interfaith Association
of Snohomish County

The Interfaith Council,
Inland Northwest

Yakima Interfaith Association

January 21, 2004

Mr. Rex Derr

Director

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

P. O. Box 42650

Olympia, WA 98504-2669

Fax: 360.902.8681

Dear Mr. Derr and Members of the Commission:

I write on behalf of the Governing Board of the Washington Association of Churches in relation to the proposal before you to transfer ownership of Old Man House State Park to the Suquamish Tribe. The Washington Association of Churches includes fourteen member denominational bodies serving all of Washington State, with congregations and parishes in every community. Our Governing Board and the member churches have followed with great interest the development of this proposal for the State to return the historic home of the Suquamish people to the Tribe, in order to preserve it and make it available to all, because of its historic and cultural significance.

We understand that great sensitivity has been demonstrated as the Tribe has sought input and advice from people in the surrounding communities as they developed a Park Management Plan. We think your Commission can be confident that the Park will be well-managed and will remain open and accessible to all members of the community.

We believe this proposal offers the people of Washington State a unique and welcome opportunity to make right an historic wrong. We encourage you to approve their proposal and plan.

Cordially,

Rev. Thomas Quigley
Acting Executive Minister

Cc: Governor Gary Locke
Rich Brooks, The Suquamish Tribe
Suquamish Olalla Neighbors