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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-4701
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Mayor Gary Haakenson
City of Edmonds
121 5th Avenue North
Edmonds, WA 98020

Dear Mayor,

In early December I had the opportunity to witness the damage that occurred at Lake Ballinger as a result of the most recent "100-year storm". I was able to see the high water level and the infrastructure challenges posed by the deteriorating weir and culvert.


After seeing the site first hand, I am well aware of the problems related to water quantity, water quality, and habitat for native species. The scope of the problem and the multi-jurisdictional reach of the watershed make addressing the stewardship of Lake Ballinger a truly regional challenge.

Accordingly, I wanted to write you in support of your city's efforts in Olympia to secure funding to address the issue. Matching state funds to support local investments is clearly a solid strategy for regional efforts. However, without the political will to move forward, money alone will never solve this problem.

I applaud your collaboration with the cities of Mountlake Terrace, Lynnwood, Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. By working together, your efforts at a regional approach make a compelling case for additional outside funding.

I encourage you to keep me updated on the progress of this project and to work with my staff to explore additional federal funding for this project. Federal support is a competitive process, as you know, but you also know that responsible environmental stewardship is an important issue to me. I'm looking forward to working with you and the other cities to support your initiative, and hope to see you when you visit Washington DC.

Very truly yours,


JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress