



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

917 Lakeridge Way · PO Box 43430 · Olympia, WA 98504-3430 · (360) 753-7800 · FAX (360) 753-7808 · www.hecb.wa.gov

September 12, 2008

Dear Legislator:

The 2008 Legislature provided support for interested parties in Snohomish, Skagit and Island counties to reach a "consensus recommendation on a single, preferred site" for a new University of Washington campus.

The Legislature asked the Higher Education Coordinating Board to assist these parties in coming to an agreement and to issue a report to the appropriate legislative fiscal and policy committees by December 1, 2008.

I am pleased to announce that the HECB has retained Bill Wilkerson, an attorney and former state government executive with extensive experience conducting multi-party mediation and negotiation to facilitate the discussion and prepare the report.

Mr. Wilkerson's contract covers the period from September 15 to November 30, 2008.

During this time, Bill Wilkerson will confer with state, county and city elected officials, business and community organization leaders, major employers, and the community college and higher education institutions serving the region.

A former executive director of the Washington Forest Services Association, Wilkerson was the lead negotiator in the state's landmark salmon recovery plan – the Forests & Fish Agreement – the largest Habitat Conservation Plan in the country, meeting requirements of both the endangered species and the clean water acts.

Bill Wilkerson is an especially strong choice for this important assignment. He was selected because of his extensive and unique experience in multi-party public policy negotiations, including complex land use and natural resources issues. He has not been involved or participated in any aspect of the UW North branch campus issue, which makes him an ideal neutral broker to assist the parties in reaching agreement.

Please contact me if you have any questions or other concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Daley".

Ann Daley
Executive Director