

Congressman Rick Larsen, Dem.
2nd Congressional District of Washington State
United States of America House of Representatives
108 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Congressman:

The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce would like to state its support of the City of Mount Vernon in their efforts to move forward with the downtown Mount Vernon Flood control project as planned. The recent letter from FEMA regarding the Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) was highly disturbing to the business community. This project will protect Mount Vernon's historic downtown, the County seat and significant regional infrastructure as well as a vital business community. The city has been working in cooperation with the City of Burlington as well as Skagit County on flood control efforts for several years. This project has been well thought out and planned and the city has gone through all the necessary steps.

We feel due to lack of full funding, the GI Study which has been ongoing since 1997, will not be completed in a timely manner for protection of our downtown. I sincerely hope you will be able to help the City of Mount Vernon in their efforts to work with FEMA to review the application for a CLOMR based on the technical merits of the proposed project. Thank you for all you do for our community.

Kristen Whitener, IOM

President/CEO
Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce