

November 28, 2022

To: **KC Council:** [council@kingcounty.gov](mailto:council@kingcounty.gov)  
Re: **Public Comment—Ordinance 2021-0451**

The *Joint Team of King County Rural Area Unincorporated Area Councils / Unincorporated Area Associations / Organizations (\*)* supports King County Council Ordinance 2021-0451 to modify the Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs) Program for open space, forest and agricultural lands.

This ordinance standardizes the review process. It makes several simplifications that should make the program more understandable and easy to administer. It changes some language to be current and match other recent code updates.

The modifications add a new category of ecological enhancement. This has the potential and intent to incentivize things like bulkhead, culvert and road removals which have significant ecological value and are expensive for property owners to implement. This, along with the existing resource restoration category, has the potential to incentivize important and significant ecological improvements.

The update also encourages more interest in resource conservation easements by offering a greater potential tax savings.

While focus often is on the acquisition part of the Land Conservation Initiative, the PBRs program is a significant part of the strategy to protect land. These program updates increase the potential positive impact of this tool, as more land and ecological value can be protected with the property remaining in private ownership.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment and support these important changes.

*(\*) Enumclaw Plateau Community Association (EPCA), Friends of Sammamish Valley (FoSV), Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC), Green River Coalition (GRC), Green Valley/Lake Holm Association (GV/LHA), Hollywood Hill Association (HHA), and Soos Creek Area Response (SCAR).*

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