

DRAFT

August 3, 2011

Michael Young, President
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

Dear President Young:

In a recent Seattle Times article * you indicated support for a cooperative vision between the university and the city to create a place where “innovative businesses can find incubator space next door to the university”. This zone is further described as “a place that will be walkable and aesthetically pleasant and add to the vibrancy of the city”.

The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission would like to add our support for your vision and urge you to further consider that trees and vegetation be a significant part of any plans for the proposed innovation zone. The Seattle Urban Forest Commission was established to advise the Mayor and City Council concerning the establishment of policy and regulations governing the protection, management, and conservation of trees and vegetation in the City of Seattle.

Urban forests add enumerable social, economic and ecological benefits to our communities and would be a compliment to your vision. In recent years, the redevelopment and expansion efforts of the university has resulted in the removal of a significant number of mature trees. We see your proposal as a way to advance the city’s efforts to increase tree canopy in Seattle, in particular in and around the university campus.

Welcome to Seattle and we look forward to seeing the evolution of your innovation zone proposal, especially as it relates to the inclusion of a vibrant urban forest.

Regards,

Matt Mega, Chair
Seattle Urban Forest Commission

*“UW president likes “innovation” zone”, Seattle Times, Wednesday July 20, 2011, p. B3