

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Matt Mega, Chair • John Small, Vice-Chair • Nancy Bird • Gordon Bradley
Tom Early • John Floberg • John Hushagen • Jeff Reibman • Peg Staeheli

August 10, 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 of Washington and the City of Seattle 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 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 many social, economic and ecological benefits to our communities and would complement your vision. In recent years, the redevelopment and expansion efforts of the university have resulted in the removal of a significant number of mature trees. We see your proposal as a way to replace trees lost to recent development in the University District and even to advance the City’s efforts to increase tree canopy in Seattle.

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

Sincerely,



Matt Mega, Chair
Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

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

cc: Mayor Michael McGinn, Council President Richard Conlin, Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember Burgess, Councilmember Clark, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember Licata, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember O'Brien, Christa Valles

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