



Advancing Global Health Through Discovery™

August 26, 2009

Mr. Bob Drewel
Executive Director
Puget Sound Regional Council
1101 Western Avenue #500
Seattle, WA 98104-1035

RE: STP funding for South Lake Union/Uptown Mercer Corridor Improvements

Dear Mr. Drewel:

I'm writing to express Seattle Biomedical Research Institute's support for the Mercer Corridor Project. Our organization moved into a new purpose-built research facility in the South Lake Union neighborhood five years ago, and we are proud to be one of the pioneers in this revitalized area.

Over the course of the five years we've been located along the Mercer Corridor, our organization has more than doubled in size – to nearly 325 employees – and we expect our growth pattern to continue. With more employees, we need better access into our neighborhood, which can be accomplished by fixing the "Mercer Mess." We also have extensive partnerships with other organizations in our area – including the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the University of Washington and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Mercer Corridor Project will give us easier and, most importantly, safer access as we travel to meet with our collaborators.

It will also give our employees better access to one of the key amenities in our neighborhood – Lake Union. While the lake is just a few short blocks from our headquarters, our employees rarely walk to the lake because of having to cross Mercer Street. In its current state, it's often clogged with cars, bicyclists and pedestrians, making a dangerous situation for all.

We urge you to devote funds to this very important project. The Mercer Corridor Project affords the opportunity to serve as an important portal into our neighborhood and provide easy access that will enable SBRI to continue to recruit the best employees and play an important role in Seattle's growth as a global health epicenter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Hassler".

Randy Hassler
Vice President of Operations