

## Public Comments for the February 23, 2022, Commission Meeting

**From:** karen sullivan

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022 9:18 PM

**To:** Pam Petranek; Carol Hasse; Pete Hanke; Eron Berg

**Subject:** urgent request

Dear Commissioners Petranek, Hasse, and Hanke, and Executive Director Berg,

I'm a retired US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist and boat owner at Boat Haven, asking you to declare your support before Thursday Feb 24, for Port Townsend resident Lorna Smith, who was appointed to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission by Governor Inslee in January of 2021. The reason for the short timeframe is because her Senate confirmation hearing (in Committee) is scheduled at 1:30 PM on Thursday, and I recently learned that there is an effort to keep her from being confirmed because of her strong record of environmental advocacy.

Lorna is an ecologist who served as Snohomish County's highest level environmental supervisor for 20 years overseeing NEPA, SEPA and ESA implementation for salmon and other listed species and has been a volunteer for many conservation groups and activities here on the Olympic Peninsula (Olympic Forest Coalition, Jefferson Land Trust, Jefferson County Conservation Futures Committee and Jefferson Planning Commission) and state-wide. She has served on many Department of Fish and Wildlife advisory groups. She is the only Fish and Wildlife Commissioner from the Olympic Peninsula and has very strong conservation credentials. I've worked alongside her and can think of no one better qualified to serve.

The hearing is before the Senate Ag and Natural Resources Committee chaired by Senator Van De Wege, who represents the Peninsula and parts of Grays Harbor County (24th Legislative District). Lorna deserves and needs support to continue critical environmental work on behalf of Washington's fish, wildlife and habitats. Please contact Senator Van De Wege and urge that he support her confirmation as a strong conservation candidate and the Peninsula's own representative to the Commission. Only the Senators on the Committee will be providing testimony, but you can register your comment about Lorna specifically through the following link:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/pbc/bill/9250>

Or you can email directly to the following:

Senator Van De Wege email: [Kevin.vandewege@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Kevin.vandewege@leg.wa.gov)

Cc: other key committee members and committee staff:

[derek.stanford@leg.wa.gov](mailto:derek.stanford@leg.wa.gov)

[christine.rolfes@leg.wa.gov](mailto:christine.rolfes@leg.wa.gov)

[jesse.salomon@leg.wa.gov](mailto:jesse.salomon@leg.wa.gov)

[Karen.epps@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Karen.epps@leg.wa.gov) (staff)

All of the nominated candidates should be confirmed, and it'd be great to have Lorna representing us.

Thank you for the Commission's consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Sullivan

**From:** R Jahnke  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 12:02:04 PM  
**To:** Pam Petranek; Carol Hasse; Pete Hanke  
**Cc:** Eron Berg  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Agenda Item VIII B - Sims Way Gateway Task Force

Dear Commissioners,

One aspect of the Sims Way Gateway Project not widely discussed but of great potential is that this project provides the opportunity to begin adapting this area of town to be more resilient to climate change-driven sea level rise. This area of town is topographically low and yet supports a significant number of local jobs and businesses that even moderate rises in sea level would impact.

A first step in any adaptive design will be to seal off stormwater drainage pipes that connect directly to the bay to prevent street flooding at high tides. Amongst the alternative mitigation strategies that would then be required would be to direct rainwater runoff into the soils adjacent to the road. This option would also have the long-term benefit of increasing the fresh groundwater in this area, increasing its ability to serve as a barrier against sea level rise-driven salt water intrusion.

I fully support the formation of this task force. I also believe that this project represents an opportunity to lay the foundation to protect the jobs and businesses in this low lying area of town. I recommend, therefore, that the efforts of this task force to design the above-ground landscaping be coordinated with city public works and engineering staff to ensure that below-ground options for mitigating the impacts of sea level rise and salt water intrusion are considered.

Thank you,

Rick Jahnke