



Mt. Baker Foothills
Economic Development Association

PO Box 866
Maple Falls, WA
98266

May 28, 2005

Kate Greenquist
US Attorney's Office
US Department of Justice
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Kate:

This is to inform you of that action taken at the May 18th regular meeting of the Mt. Baker Foothills Economic Development Association (EDA). Following a presentation by Norma Kirchen, of Kendall Watch, the membership gave unanimous support to the efforts of that Foothills organization to seek funds to improve our community. The Foothills area, which corresponds roughly to the Mt. Baker School District, covers 500 square miles, much of it mountainous terrain with divergent valleys.

The EDA serves as a community forum for needs and problems in the Foothills area, and through its committee structure, develops action plans designed to address issues of an economic nature. Our membership is well aware of the efforts of Kendall Watch to create a cleaner and safer community in the Paradise Lakes area and their struggles with blight, solid waste, illegal dumping, high crime and high poverty rates and nuisance animal control.

The EDA and the Foothills Chamber of Commerce cooperated with Kendall Watch to successfully secure a resident deputy from the Whatcom County Sheriff's Department for our community.

EDA members have also helped develop the plans for the construction of a North Fork Community Resource Center to serve the Foothills area. Adult education and literacy, medical services, Head Start, ESL instruction, library facilities, youth enrichment and recreation programs, work skill related programs, computer literacy, and a food bank outlet are all potential resources that would be available to local residents. We have joined forces with the North Fork Community Resource Association, the Whatcom County Executive's Office, Whatcom County Council, and the State Legislative Delegation to raise nearly half of the funds needed for this project.

One critical need facing us the ability to implement a Kendall Watch plan for stabilizing the fragile Paradise Lakes community. All Foothills Communities would benefit from carrying through this plan.

The membership of the EDA encourages you as a representative of the US Department of Justice to strongly consider the community improvement-funding proposal being developed by Kendall Watch to reduce crime and blight and improve the quality of life and property values in the Foothills.

Please contact me via e-mail tiamb@earthlink.net or by phone 360/599-1776 for more information.

Sincerely,

Carole MacDonald, Chair,
Mt Baker Foothills Economic Development Association