



NEWS RELEASE

For Release July 20, 2009
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County Council Establishes Economic Task Force

On Wednesday July 15, 2009 the Snohomish County Council took action to establish a task force on economic development. "We understand how imperative it is to have a strong economy in the creation of a healthy environment in which to live, work and play," said Councilmember Dave Somers adding "the task force will advise us on economic and workforce concerns and they will make recommendations on legislative and programmatic measures that will result in measurable improvements in the local economy."

"Improving the local economy is something that the Council cannot do alone," said Councilmember John Koster, adding "the goal here is to enhance the lives of county residents through the best means possible." The Council will appoint 17 members to the Task Force including elected officials, business leaders, and experts representing a broad range of interests. Two council members, including the Chair of the Council Finance and Economic Development Committee, will serve on the task force.

"There are key sectors of the local economy that the group will be focusing on," said Councilmember Dave Gossett. "Aerospace, workforce, agriculture, clean technology/green jobs, transportation and tourism will all be recognized by the Task Force as essential to the local economy." Council Chair Mike Cooper noted that "the Task Force will identify items of legislation that will positively impact the local economy," adding "these items of legislation will be identified at both the county and state levels."

"The Council is dedicated to advancing local economic health in order to preserve jobs and maintain the revenues that are needed to uphold critical public services" said Councilmember Gossett. "This Task Force will help make this a reality because improvements will be identified and then acted on."

All Task Force members will serve until the work is completed, or for one year from the adoption date, whichever is less. On or before March 31, 2010, the Task Force will present their recommendations to improve the local economic climate at a regularly scheduled public meeting of the Council.

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