



Snohomish County

County Council
Megan Dunn, Chair
Jared Mead, Vice-Chair
Stephanie Wright
Sam Low
Nate Nehring

April 20, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee
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Governor Inslee,

As always, we appreciate the work the Legislature was able to complete in a short session. Understanding that managing the volume of bills in the time allowed by the Constitution is always difficult, we believe there are two bills ready for a final vote that didn't make it through before sine die. The needs are quite different but are time-sensitive to local governments. As members of the Snohomish County Council, we ask that you call the Legislature back for a special session to address these issues.

Public Safety

The Legislature clearly heard the need for adjustments to law enforcement reforms passed in the prior session. Unfortunately, we've seen some of the unintended consequences of those bills in Snohomish County. This session's changes should help, but we believe the restriction on pursuits is a remaining obstacle to responsible law enforcement. We agree that the risk must fit the crime, but current law encourages suspects to flee, putting the public and law enforcement in danger. We believe the final version of SB 5919 addressed those concerns and struck a sensible balance.

Climate Change

Over the last couple of sessions, you and the Legislature have made significant progress on climate change. One remaining piece of work is to address climate change in our local comprehensive planning. The decisions we make on land use and transportation are responsible for most of Washington's carbon emissions. That's why we believe HB 1099 was a critical bill. This year the largest counties are beginning our comprehensive plan updates, and it will be eight years before we revisit them. If we want to meet our carbon reduction targets, this work can't wait for another cycle.

Thank you for your leadership. We would be happy to continue this discussion further if it would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Megan Dunn
Council Chair

Jared Mead
Council Vice-Chair

Stephanie Wright
Councilmember

Sam Low
Councilmember

Nate Nehring
Councilmember