



Washington State Legislature

January 31, 2025

Dear Chair Robinson and Chair Ormsby

The Southwest Washington Delegation wishes to express continued support for the Southwest Washington Regional Public Safety Training Center. While the temporary location for the Academy in Vancouver has already shown admirable results, the need for securing a permanent location is apparent.

The current location, at the former Image Elementary School, is housed in a 50 year old building that was not purpose built as a training facility for law enforcement. Significant and expensive improvements would be needed to maintain this facility, and the long-term viability of this location is also in doubt. The property is owned by SEH America, a semiconductor manufacturer that has already stated plans to expand industrial capacity.

A location for the development of a permanent facility has been found. Through future investments, a proposed facility can be constructed near the Clark College Boschma Farms Campus in Ridgefield that would create a central nexus to surrounding communities, including the Cowlitz Nation, and create a clear nexus between the Training Center and our community colleges. The proposed facility, capable of providing the mandatory curricula of the Criminal Justice Training Commission, will require a firearms training range and a driving track for conducting emergency vehicle operations training. The facility also needs to include larger indoor spaces to accommodate technology-based instruction such as Virtual Reality training and will need to include shower and changing facilities, a feature necessitated by the rigorous physical fitness and defensive tactics training classes, that the current facility at Image Elementary lacks.

Approximately \$3.5 million in planning dollars for 2025, and \$3 million in capital funds in 2026 will allow this vision to begin being realized. As Southwest Washington remains home to some of Washington's fastest growing communities, we strongly believe that a permanent campus for the Southwest Washington Regional Public Safety Training Center is critical for our growing law enforcement needs in the region.

Please let our offices know if you have any questions. We continue to stand in strong support of this important project for Southwest Washington, and the state as a whole.

Sincerely,



Senator Annette Cleveland
(49th LD)



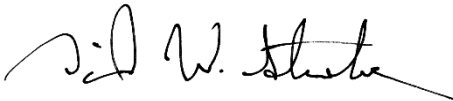
Representative Monica Jurado Stonier
(49th LD)



Representative Sharon Wylie
(49th LD)



Senator Paul Harris
(17th LD)



Representative David Stuebe
(17th LD)



Representative Kevin Waters
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Senator Adrian Cortes
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Representative John Ley
(18th LD)



Senator John Braun
(20th LD)



Representative Peter Abbarno
(20th LD)



Representative Ed Orcutt
(20th LD)