March 15, 2017

Senator Maria Cantwell

511 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Dave Reichert

1127 Longworth HOB

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Cantwell and Congressman Reichert,

The time is now to make the Mountains to Sound Greenway official. This natural and cultural landscape clearly deserves the recognition and benefits that come with designation as a National Heritage Area. I support this effort because I feel a strong connection with the great communities and phenomenal natural beauty of the Greenway. Please pass legislation that would formalize this landscape as a National Heritage Area.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway is a special place that I care for deeply because [reasons you care for the Greenway/ description of my relationship to the Greenway / stories of involvement]. The Greenway is unique not only for its natural treasures, but for its exceptional accessibility. [How do you get out in the Greenway? E.g. “I live in downtown Seattle and am only a half an hour’s drive from Mt Si, one of my favorite hikes.”] From Puget Sound to Central Washington, the Greenway’s deep forests, spectacular mountainsides, lush meadows, and myriad rivers, streams and lakes allow people of all ages to learn about and experience these natural areas.

The Greenway vision of preserving dynamic communities, safe and accessible outdoor recreation, healthy ecosystems, productive farms and forests, vibrant historic sites and a wealth of cultural attractions is essential to the wellbeing of our region. We must conserve the forests and natural areas so that future generations to have access to clean water and air. We need to maintain the renowned recreational opportunities that contribute to our economy in many ways. National Heritage Area designation will help achieve these goals by empowering a consensus-based approach for the continued care and improvement of the Greenway. That is why I am urging you to please act now to pass the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Act.

Sincerely,

XXX

Hometown

CC: Senator Patty Murray

Congressman Adam Smith

Congressman Dan Newhouse

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal