



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Erin Leonhart, Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Date: July 1, 2010
Subject: SAFE DRUG DISPOSAL ACT – SUPPORT LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN INSLEE

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to Congressman Jay Inslee expressing the City's support of the Safe Drug Disposal Act.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Congressman Jay Inslee has co-sponsored a bill, the Safe Drug Disposal Act of 2009, which will provide a framework for and require implementation of state drug take-back programs and ensure drug labeling does not include recommendations or directions to dispose of drugs by means of a wastewater system (flushing down the toilet).

This bill would support Kirkland's local and regional efforts to keep foreign substances out of drinking and natural water resources. There have been several efforts at the state level to implement a drug take-back program, and the federal bill does give states the flexibility to either choose a model program or devise an alternate program. The most recent state effort was in 2009, and that bill would have established a state framework requiring drug manufacturers to pay for the program, similar to the existing electronics stewardship program.

Although this particular topic has not been included on the City's Federal Legislative Agenda, it is consistent with the City's State Legislative Agenda, which supports the Secure Medicine Return Bill. At their meeting on June 29th, the Council Legislative Committee recommended sending a letter of support. Any questions about this issue can be directed to Erin Leonhart, Intergovernmental Relations Manager.

Attachment: Draft Letter to Congressman Inslee

DRAFT

July 21, 2010

United States Representative Jay Inslee
The House of Representatives
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4701

Dear Congressman Inslee:

The City of Kirkland City Council would like to express its support for a bill you co-sponsored, the Safe Drug Disposal Act of 2009. This bill will provide a framework for and require implementation of state drug take-back programs and ensure drug labeling does not include recommendations or directions to dispose of drugs by means of a wastewater system (i.e., flushing).

This bill provides cost-effective and environmentally-sound measures to protect public safety, surface water, and drinking water resources in our region. While helping to establish a standard across the nation, the bill also provides flexibility by allowing a state to adopt a model program or work with its respective Attorney General to devise alternate programs.

The City of Kirkland operates and manages its own storm water utility, and we are a member of the Cascade Water Alliance, which provides drinking water to residents in many east King County cities. If enacted, this Act will offer an effective and viable alternative for drug disposal that will help keep controlled substances and other prescription medications out of our drinking and natural water resources.

If you need any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact our Intergovernmental Relations Manager, Erin Leonhart at (425) 587-3009.

Sincerely,
Kirkland City Council

By Joan McBride, Mayor