

City of Port Townsend

Office of City Manager
250 Madison Street, #2, Port Townsend, WA 98368
Telephone: (360) 379-5047 Fax: (360) 385-4290



October 22, 2012

Mr. Greg Devereux, Executive Director
Washington Federation of State Employees
1212 Jefferson Street SE, #300
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Mr. Devereux,

Thank you for the follow-up to my letter of August 10, 2012. I understand that time is critical for us, and I appreciate the response. Since the Fort Worden PDA has so aptly responded to the Union's concerns, I will forego reviewing your points and replying to what I believe is a variety of misconceptions. Henry David Thoreau comes to mind: "It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."

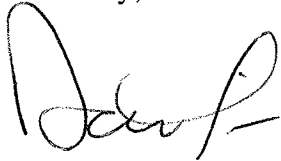
The issue of the future of Fort Worden transcends the Union, State Parks, the City and its partners. What we need to face and act upon now is what is in the best interest of this historic asset and place. This demands that we rise above anyone's special interest to do the right thing. Arguing over who said what to whom and when, adds nothing.

The nation as a whole is facing a critical time. This critical time is more apparent to the City of Port Townsend as we watch the State of Washington dismantle its infrastructure in and around the City. What we really need and have obtained is true grass roots leadership and courage to face and implement a future for Fort Worden. This future of Fort Worden has been long in the making and done in very open and involved public process for many years. Now is not the time to turn against the process based upon fear mongering from a false set of assertions.

The City is in strong support of the future of Fort Worden as envisioned in its plan and will continue to support those seeking its implementation. With that, I will leave you with this quote that I believe sums up our collective situation:

“It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird: it would be a jolly sight harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad.” C.S. Lewis

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Timmons', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Timmons
City Manager

cc: The Hon. Governor Christine Gregoire
City Council
FWPDA Board
WA State Parks & Recreation Commission
Don Hoch, Director, WA State Parks & Recreation Commission
The Hon. Senator James Hargove
The Hon. Rep. Steve Tharinger
The Hon. Rep. Kevin Van De Wege
Michael McCarty, CEO, AWC