



July 20, 2023

**Via Email**

Katherine Ross, Mayor  
City of Snoqualmie  
38624 SE River St.  
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

RE: Snoqualmie Indian Tribe's Opposition to Construction of Facility near Two Sisters Return for Model Train Collection

Dear Mayor Ross-

On February 9, 2023, the Snoqualmie Tribal Council first reached out to you to express our concerns with the City of Snoqualmie's plans to enter into discussions with Peter Hambling regarding the construction of a building to house his model train collection at the corner of Snoqualmie Parkway and Railroad Avenue. This proposed construction of a facility would be near the Snoqualmie Falls across the street from the property protected under conservation easement, known as Two Sisters Return. Subsequent to the letter, one meeting was held with the City wherein the Tribe reiterated its opposition to this proposed construction; an additional planned meeting was cancelled by the City with the Tribe being told there was no need to meet as there were no updates to share.

Today, the Tribe learned from third parties that the City will be likely signing a 50-year lease of 1.5 acres in the next week or so to enable the construction of the building for the model train collection. The fact that the Tribe was not consulted in advance on this apparent decision by the City to lease the land is egregious, and made all the more so by the fact that the last correspondence the Tribe received from the City on this project indicated that the City had no updates because there was nothing going on with the project.

The Tribe has expressed on multiple occasions that the Tribe does not support this construction project due to the cultural sensitivity of the area. The Tribe's objections to construction that may cause direct or indirect impacts to our sacred site is well-known to the City. The Snoqualmie Tribal Council demands an immediate update from the City in writing on this project, consultation to discuss the project, and a halt to any action by the City that would facilitate the model train collection construction project (including, but not limited to executing the lease) before a government-to-government meeting can take place. The Tribe is aware that the MOU with the developer is expiring soon, and we further urge the City to not extend that development MOU.



The Snoqualmie People have had and continue to have a spiritual, cultural, and historical connection to sacred Snoqualmie Falls and we have and will continue to oppose any action that will disturb, desecrate or otherwise impair the integrity of the tangible and intangible characteristics of the area, including at Two Sisters Return and the surrounding area.

Sincerely,

Snoqualmie Tribal Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert M. de los Angeles".

Robert M. de los Angeles  
Chairman