

**Westport Light State Park – Westport Golf LLC Proposal Comments**

*September 27, 2019 – October 20, 2019*

Laura,

I understand that a meeting is to occur on October 8th in regards to the development of the Scottish Links style in Westport, WA. I would love having it there.

I am an owner of one of the homes in Cohasset Beach Development and I am firmly in favor of a Westport golf course. At the time I purchased my home, over 10 years ago, that was the plan and was certainly a large factor in my decision to buy and build a home in Westport. Westport is a quaint little fishing village type of town and could be such a wonderful place to go, but the recession and change of laws regarding timber and commercial fishing, put the town in a disadvantage to grow and prosper. Westport, possibly being a destination spot and tourism revenue could help the economic needs of this town substantially. The idea of a golf course is an excellent one.

I am unaware of the actual Opportunity Zones in the Westport area, but even if not directly assigned by the Federal and State Governments as an Opportunity Zone, the golf course could certainly meet the requirements by creating a project to help revitalize the economically distressed community of Westport using private investments rather than taxpayer dollars. There would be many benefits in regards to local employment, tourism trade, tax receipts, local income and more.

Hopefully, the State Park and the State will determine this is best for this small town with a huge amount of potential and beauty. I vote yes. Thank you

I am the owner of The Ocean Spray Beach Resort. I support the new Golf Course proposed for Westport. I believe it will be an asset to the South Beach.

Laura:

I am sending you this email to offer support for the proposed golf course development in Westport, Washington. Few parts of Washington state need economic development more than Grays Harbor county and the proposed project would serve to significantly improve the recreational opportunities in the Westport area. Drawing more visitors to the coast is fundamental to driving economic growth and a links style course developed and operated in an ecologically friendly manner would be an appropriate use for the designated property. The development of courses in the Bandon, Oregon market significantly boosted tourism to that coastal town. I hope the state will find ways to encourage this development for the good of our local citizens who would benefit from it both economically and recreationally.

Thank you.

I support the new proposed Scottish Links course that is being introduced to the State Parks Lighthouse area.

This is greatly needed for the whole communities commercial stability to survive.

I was a large hotel owner in Denver and understand the importance of tourism dollars and that is what this will bring to our area.

High dollar income, Thank you for looking at our area for this proposition.

My concerns;

The usage of animal friendly pesticides for the eradication and general landscaping needs to maintain the course.

The impact of the trampling feet on the surrounding natural area.

Quality management

Oversize structures that take away the natural beauty.

Hotel beds

Trash blowing into the ocean and surrounding areas.

Stray balls hitting general public

Parking.

I moved from Colorado to a cleaner State to enjoy my retirement years. I now volunteer for community events needing manpower.

Hi Laura,

we currently own a dwelling on North Forest right up the street from The Light house park. We recently received the letter regarding the purposed change I.e. a golf course, concession stands, and other changes in the state park area. We wanted to let you know we approve and look forward to the progression of this golf course idea. We feel it will enhance the area aesthetics as well as provide employment as enjoyment.

We have had concerns of the homeless camps inside the park and the negative impact they have on the Community.

Being avid golfers though, we would look forward to playing the course, and the many amenities surrounding it, to share with our family and guests.

Hi Laura,

I don't think a private golf course and hotel is appropriate on any state park. Please do not approve the private partnership with Westport Golf.

Golfing is a predominantly white outdoor sport. Please use state parks for recreation opportunities that are more inclusive and create an atmosphere that welcomes and supports people of color. I'd like to reference WA Parks most recent strategic plan; I don't see how golfing moves us towards the goals of the State Parks' diversity initiatives. And if things like walking and biking are the most popular park activities, then that's what the park should be developed for.

As far as my experience in Westport, I surf and have participated in lots of beach cleanups there. There are plenty of accommodations already in Westport, and building a new one doesn't benefit the many small business owners who already have accommodations available. I would personally rather stay with my family and dogs in a heated cabin on the coast than in a hotel.

Additionally, I'd like to suggest that the Commission remove the word "citizens" from the mission statement. That is an unnecessary word choice that excludes people who live in Washington State who are not citizens. Please consider using the word "resident".

Thank you for your work.

Laura,

I am writing to express my support for the golf course in Westport. This is a no brainer! Few times in someone's political career do they get an opportunity to make IMPACT on an entire community. This is yours! Please let me know if you need any help or additional support - I'm ALL IN on this proposal because I see so many lives being positively impacted.

Thank you for your support!

As homeowners in Westport for the past 20 years and active members of the South Beach Art Association, we strongly support the Westport Lighthouse Golf Course Proposal. We believe that Westport would benefit from the economical boost this would provide as well improve the State Park lands and it would be fun to play golf close to home rather than drive to South Bend or Cosmopolis. Please approve this proposal. Thank you.

Hi Laura

Our family has The Bush Family Trust which was started by my father Robert E Bush. We have been a part of the Westport community for many years starting with our Lumberyard at the Westport y and our Medal

Of Honor fishing trip for many years in Westport.

We are 100 percent in support of this much needed destination golf course.

Just wanted to let you know we are in favor of a public golf course here in the south beach. Our property has been in our family since 1910. We have a small partime nursery business and would welcome more People in town.

We have played golf at Brandon dunes six times. The business owners we talked to in Brandon said the golf there changed their businesses by they we're able to stay open year round. There are many golf course along the Oregon coast and they have never an a negative environmental impact on the towns.

We are very much in favor of this golf course happening

Laura,

I will be unable to attend the public meeting regarding the proposed golf course in Lighthouse Park but wanted to let you know of my support. I have owned property in Grayland through our company Seabreeze Development LLC since 2006. At that time Westport was beginning to "wake up" and thrive due to the first proposed golf course and other developments. I watched new businesses open, new people come in and community morale and outlook improve drastically. Basically, hope for new jobs and services and other opportunities was beginning to grow which made economic development snowball. Unfortunately that all came to an end when the recession hit and Westport's economy became depressed once again with family wage jobs disappearing and vacancies increasing. Sadly many people had to leave the area in order to find more opportunity. However, there are many talented, valuable community members remaining in the Westport area who believe in the community and will help build the area into the thriving place it can be.

I believe the Westport area is one of the most beautiful beach areas remaining on the Washington and Oregon coast with accessible beaches, abundant wildlife, great infrastructure such as the Lighthouse Park and a true beach town atmosphere which is hard to find these days. It is a shame that so few people know about Westport other than those who come for sports fishing and also that the perception of visitors can be influenced by the number of empty commercial spaces. A new golf course would attract people from all over the northwest who would return with their families once they have seen what a beautiful area it is and the recreational opportunities it provides which will stimulate growth.

A Scottish links style golf course will be less disruptive of the natural environment than a traditional golf course and will actually improve the environment by removal of invasive plants while preserving a large area of land.. In addition, the proposed revenue plan will allow the park to continue to be improved by adding more trails and amenities for non golfers and to be regularly maintained due to the influx of funds.

We sincerely hope that the proposed golf course plan is accepted and wholeheartedly give our support to it. If there is any way we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

My name is (redacted) and I am the Head PGA Golf Professional at Highland Golf Course in Cosmopolis, WA. I just spoke with a very good friend of mine and he filled me in a little bit about the proposed golf course at Westport.

I've been a golf professional in the Grays Harbor area now for 32 years and I must say what an exciting prospect this is! Especially with the likes of David McLay Kidd possibly designing the venue! He's as top notch as it gets in golf course architecture as far as I'm concerned. I've played some of the courses he's designed and they're simply spectacular!

What a great opportunity for a struggling Grays Harbor economy as well. Not only will a course like this draw people to Westport but it will drive golfers as a whole to the Grays Harbor area thus creating more revenue for everyone.

I just wanted to throw my support into the hat and say how excited I am to have this as a possibility for our greater Grays Harbor area. Thank you for your time

Laura I highly support the building of Golf Course on state property. I think everyone would benefit both the state through increased revenue, local people as would be a great shot in the arm for community. People coming to use the golf course would benefit and have a great time. We have a condo at Westport By The Sea for 14 years. We purchased when the golf course first started. We were greatly disappointed when not completed as we wanted to use almost on a daily basis.

Once again I highly support such project.

Dear Ms. Moxham,

We wish to express support of the development of the low impact golf course and lodging proposed by Westport Golf LLC in collaboration with the Washington State Parks at the Westport Light State Park.

Westport Winery is a family-owned venture that has been in operation since 2008 and has been named one of the top twenty most admired wineries in North America. We opened the award-winning Sea Glass Grill in 2012. We are launching Ocean's Daughter Distillery on our property this fall. We will be constructing the International Mermaid Museum in 2020. We are one of a few tourist businesses on the South Beach that are open daily, year around. This experience provides us the unique perspective of listening to visitors about what they hope to find in their trips to the area along with regular communication with our neighbors in their vision for the future. We are fully committed to providing both jobs and services to our community and view this project as a positive move for others to join our proven track record of success.

Over the years we have met with numerous groups and individuals who say they want to do what we do, but only in the summer. This is not a sustainable business model, nor is it beneficial in creating a vibrant and stable local economy. The key to our success, in addition to great products and service, is availability. We see this as a viable proposal and one that has the potential to add significant impetus to local economic success because it does not rely solely upon summer activity.

Both citizens and visitors to Grays Harbor County and the City of Westport would benefit from this proposal. Westport, already a beach destination, is the best site to offer this type of public-private partnership. We believe this project would provide year around living wage jobs, important recreational access to public lands, and an environmentally respectful recreational experience to a variety of users.

Currently, the property is a blight, with extensive invasive weeds, a high fire hazard, an absence of accessibility, and a reputation of unsafe and unsanitary transient camping. All of

these problems could be addressed with the approval of this project and creation of a links golf course.

There is already an abundance of wildlife on the property and within Westport city limits. It is unlikely that the development of this property would negatively impact those populations that have already found adaptations to the suburban interface. It would however create opportunity for better management and viewing for all ages and levels of mobility.

The proposal includes development of lodging. While there are a variety of excellent places for visitors to stay in Westport, there are few oceanfront options that are so often requested by our guests. We have excellent relationships with those in the lodging business and appreciate all their positive efforts in providing places for our visitors to stay, however, there is more demand than supply in this market segment.

Westport is the primary commercial and recreational fishing port on the Washington coast. This community relies upon the sustainable harvest and marketing of natural resources. Any effort to bring more people to our harbor to see the value of this industry, the rich cultural significance of our lifestyle, and a glimpse of the hard work needed to provide food for the world is a significant side benefit of this project.

This development of the Westport Light State Park could indeed be the long-awaited tipping point for our community. While we don't know them, we welcome these investors. We encourage State Parks to embrace this partnership for the benefit of the land, the local citizenry, and visitors to the state. We look forward to the enhanced lifestyle and recreational opportunities this will bring to our very special beachfront community.

Laura:

I am writing to support pursuing the proposed golf course if it adds to the economy, becomes a partner with the community and does not shut out existing smaller businesses

The Mermaid Deli opened in June 2007--the economy crashed shortly after. It was important to keep the business going as it was my sister's retirement investment. I partnered with her so that she would have enough to purchase the building and build out the deli. To my shock, she died in 2016. I continue to own and run it through a competent manager and staff.

I have seen the tremendous decline of Westport's economy. The Chuck Maples' debacle was devastating to Westport and it hasn't been the same since it happened. It has been touch and go to keep the small business alive. If a properly developed golf course were to be built it would be a great boon to us, particularly from October to June when business is very slow. Since it is within an all-weather drive from Seattle, Olympia and Portland (the Bandon Dunes are not easy to get to), it would draw people from all over the world Even if it had it's own restaurant, our deli and other local eateries and bars would benefit from people coming.

Dear Ms. Moxham:

For the past fifteen years, my wife and I have owned a second home at the Westport By the Sea Condominium Complex. When we first considered buying one of the condos there, we were under the impression that a links golf course and small convention center was being planned for a parcel of land immediately adjacent to the Westport Lighthouse State Park. We looked at this as a very positive incentive to buy a home at Westport as we felt it would draw golfing enthusiasts to this beautiful fishing village, thus promoting growth and generating income for the South Beach Community.

Fifteen years later, the only evidence of this once planned development are the surveying stakes still in the ground where the golf course had been envisioned. Meanwhile, the City of Westport has, for the most part stayed about the same with its quaint ambiance, world class fishing fleet and businesses that open periodically to everyone's delight then close for one reason or another year after year.

With its spectacular setting on the Pacific Ocean, a links golf course would draw golfing enthusiasts from far and wide. What other community would be able to offer fishing, golfing, fine dining, shopping and miles of unfettered, pristine beaches were Lighthouse State Park able to add a world class links course to this community and promote all of this through an aggressive, carefully targetted advertising campaign? And of course as a public golf course, the state parks system would also generate much needed income to maintain this beautiful land.

A local resident, (redacted), has written a compelling letter supporting the development of the links golf course. I strongly support his comprehensive justification for the course and with his permission, have added his comments to my letter. I sincerely hope you will take our collective comments into account when considering the approval of this highly desirable and most welcome development.

Thank you,

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"Land Use / Revenue Generation - When the State Park purchased the 300 acre parcel formerly permitted for a golf course it was with the intention of preserving a large portion of it and leasing part of it out to create revenue which will reduce the cost of maintaining the park. A Scottish Links Golf Course woven through the 600 acres of parkland will do just that. Preserve a large portion of land AND provide an income stream to support the park.

Economic Need - Westport has one of the most beautiful marina's in the state as well as some of the most beautiful beaches and yet the community remains largely unknown to most of western washington. While sport fishing provides an annual draw to our area the seasons can be inconsistent and are subject to change from year to year. Adding a high quality golf course

to our surfing and fishing attractions will broaden the base of visitors which in turn will stimulate the economy for existing business as well as attract new ones. Currently our community has a high vacancy rate in commercial/retail properties and that alone impacts the perception visitors have when they find us.

**Park Access Improvement** - Currently we have a wonderful paved trail that borders the park on three sides which is a great amenity and the Historical Society has been working with State Parks to expand trail access within the park and increase access and parking on the south end by the Lighthouse. A Scottish Links course incorporates public trails unrelated to golf which will allow non golfers to have much greater use and enjoyment of the park.

**Water Use / Reuse** - The city of westport has a wastewater plant that filters and treats wastewater before discharging it into the bay. The addition of a secondary treatment process that uses the treated wastewater to irrigate the course would add a 3rd level of filtration and at the same time recharge the aquifer as opposed to draining treated wastewater directly into the bay.

**Fire Protection** - Currently the land in question is at risk of wildfire. Having areas developed in and around the acreage will create breaks and aid in reducing the risk of fire as well as increase access for firefighting if needed. Scotchbroom and gorst are noxious weeds which are highly flammable when dry and each year more and more acres are becoming dry.

**Youth and Activities** - Every community struggles to give their children as many outdoor opportunities possible in this electronic age. Having a local course could mean our students can add golf to the high school curriculum. Previous discussions realted to a location for a skatepark within the State Park area in an ideal location away from residential use and in open public location may be included in the proposal.

**Golf** - Many who live on the South Beach travel great distances to enjoy this fresh air sport. Having golf available right here at home will be a fantastic addition both for full time residents, second home owners and short term visitors. In 1995 when this property was owned by the Port of Grays Harbor, community meetings on the South Beach resulted in the Port adding the placement of a golf course on that 300 acres to their vision statement. Our community has been waiting over 25 years to have this amenity available and it is time to make it happen!"

Hi Laura, I am writing to you to express my sincere support for the potential Links style golf course. I strongly believe this could be the catalyst to a renewal of energy in the Westport Community. As you know, to attract outside groups of people to a community the community needs options for the visitors to partake in. Then once in the town the visitors then need to eat, fuel their car, get snacks for the beach, buy trinkets as a memory or maybe buy a pair of shorts

because the day turned out nicer than expected. This is the circle that a community builds upon. It helps the local families keep active and employed. It helps facilitate in the tax base, pays for parks, roads, sidewalks and most importantly schools. Members of the community and others from beyond see a community they want to be a part of. Further they want to better it, so they fix up their house. Or better yet, a person from out of town decided to purchase a vacation home or family retreat.

Currently the options for things to do in Westport are limited and minimal. As noted above, this has an affect on the over all community as when visiting populations slow, mom and pop stores, restaurants, hotels, fishing ventures, gas stations, real-estate office, etc. close up.

It is exciting to see that there are others who see our community of Westport as a chance worth taking. Whomever is doing hoping to do the golf course, I commend wholeheartedly Their investment, time and vision is something we should not take lightly. Further it is something we can all help with and join in on.

I am unable to attend this coming meeting as I am out of town. But I that want to leave your with is my upmost support of this venture.

In full disclosure, my husband and I have property in Westport, lodging / housing related. We would love these properties to become the vision we have dreamed for them. However, to do this, there needs to be a demand for people to stay in Westport, visit Westport or Live in Westport.

We hope the meeting goes well and the community can see and share in the vision.

There will always be the naysayers. But Westport needs to see that they have a chance to create a community that fosters their children and provides families work and blossoms into the amazing coastal community it has been waiting to become.

Hello,

I have made Westport my home for 2 years now as of yesterday. I moved here from expensive Seattle.

A golf course would be a great idea.

It would be something else to go and do even if not playing golf. (I did play golf)

I would like to see an indoor swimming pool, maybe a tennis/pickle ball court and or a basketball court. A family event center.

I don't want it to be turned into "Only the rich peoples" golf course. They already have control of the public beach access, from Twin Harbors State Park to the Lighthouse State Park, and that one and only public access is on Hancock Ave.

It should be a community center that everyone could use and afford.

I don't want it to be a "Country Club".

If a golf course should be installed, we need a traffic system that will work, and if you have golf tournaments we need more stop lights not less. Our one stop light is set to be removed by the DOT, changing it to a stop sign on Ocean Ave.

During the summer or any major event, Montesano and Forrest become congested and dangerous. We need to maintain the one stop light we have and, in my opinion, add another at Forrest and Montesano.

If you think about these ideas and incorporate them in your golf course design I think a golf course in Westport would be wonderful.

Guess I'll have to buy a new set of clubs.

Dear Laura:

My husband and I were traveling cross-country eight years ago when we picked up the magazine with a cover stating "Visit the Cranberry Coast". Having never heard of Westport, we decided to stop by and that decision changed the course of our lives.

At the time of our first visit to Westport, we were both faculty at the University of Cincinnati (UC). The economy was down and we found middle-class people like us could afford to live on the beach in Westport. We bought a condo at Westport by the Sea and spent summers and breaks there while we both continued to teach at UC. A few years later we bought a lot on the ocean on Ferguson Dunes Lane. After years of planning, during which my husband retired from UC, in 2017 we began building a house on our lot. The house was finished earlier this year and we sold the condo shortly before making the final payment to our builder. We now live in Westport. I continue to "commute", working remotely from Westport and from Cincinnati, but will retire myself the end of this school year – at which time we'll both live full time in Westport.

We love the community and have made many friends. We love the winters being quiet and the summers, when the marina is full of families supporting the local businesses. It's sad to see so many empty stores since it must be difficult to sustain businesses in the short season. It must also be difficult to retain young people in the community, who likely often move to other areas to find work when they finish high school and/or college. A golf course would be expected to provide opportunities for some of those people as well as attract tourists to better support local businesses and the community. The biggest downside to us is the lack of medical professionals in the area. Within only a few years, my husband has lost two primary care physicians, who have left Aberdeen to move somewhere else. Replacing those physicians, for patients, often requires getting on a waiting list for months. The inconvenience of going to Olympia or Seattle is something we prefer to avoid. Having attractions like a golf course (doc's do play golf, right? ☐) might encourage people from many occupations to consider the advantages of the lifestyle available in this area.

We heard years ago when the golf course was being considered that some locals had concerns that the ambiance of Westport could be negatively affected by something that attracted more tourists. But ambiance is something the locals and local government can control, by

determining what they want their community to be. Growth that is managed can have a tremendously positive effect on the community – particularly a community like Westport that has so much to offer yet is struggling. The local residents have the amazing opportunity to manage the growth while also thinking about how they can utilize additional revenue generated by this growth to improve their lives and the lives of their children.

I personally don't play golf, but that may be due to the fact that summer in Cincinnati are hot, humid and uncomfortable. I never bothered to learn because I don't spend time outside when the temperature is 90 degrees, with 90 percent humidity, and stiflingly uncomfortable. Westport has clean ocean air. My husband I feel better when we're there. We love being outside and don't even mind the rain (usually ☐). I might even take up golf myself.

I hope you and others of influence in Westport and Grayland will do everything you can to make this golf course a reality. Thank you for your efforts.

YES YES.... Do anything to get WESTPORT back to it glory days.....I support the golf course....

Hello Laura Moxham,

I am writing this email to find out what is the best means to register my support for the proposed golf course. I am an out-of-state owner of a summer home and 2 lots approximately a mile south of the Lighthouse. My son and his wife are co-owners and live in Forest Park WA. While we will not be able to attend the upcoming meeting, we do wish to express our desire to see the proposal materialize. Please advise what we can do to support the development of the golf course and place me and my son on a list for updates.

Hi, Ms. Moxham,

I am writing to let you know that I heartily support the proposal for all of the reasons that (redacted) has outlined in an email of which I am sure you are well aware.

I and my husband have owned a unit at Westport by the Sea since 2004, and while we don't live there full time, we are there most weekends, and very much want the area to be developed and Westport to prosper. My husband will be able to attend the meeting on 10/8.

Laura, my family has owned a home in the area for over 20 years and been coming to the beach for many more. I believe that an addition of a golf course would be beneficial to the area for so many reasons. It would bring additional outdoor activity for families . It could be a destination for so many that enjoy golf. It adds another activity to keep people in the area verses driving 20 to 50 miles to play a round of golf. I think a lot of people have been waiting for a course in the area for a long time .

I think that a course with trails around the perimeter with views of the ocean and paths to walk or ride bikes would be huge for the area. Everyone is health conscious and this too would benefit the hidden gem of Westport and Grayland.

I am going to try to be at the meeting but if not please keep me updated on the discussions and news to follow!

Greetings Laura,

I have been a resident of the South Beach since 1993. I own and operate Deep Sea Charters Inc. My business property is on Weshaven Drive at the Westport Marina. I also own a home nearby. I have been a past president of the Westport Grayland Chamber of Commerce. I have served on the Westport Planning commission, and I am Treasurer for the Westport Charterboat Assn.

Charter fishing has been a huge part of the Westport economy throughout the years but since the Boldt decision and the adverse affects of ocean conditions and drought the commercial and recreational fishing seasons have been declining and have been declared disasters a number of times, 2016 being the most recent, we are slowly recovering from that.

Westport needs a stimulus to our economy and I believe now, as I did when I was on the Planning Commission, that a Scottish style links golf course would do just that. It is true that we have tourists and fishermen in the Summer months, but I believe we can use some help in the shoulder seasons, Spring and Fall. There are many other reasons why this is a great idea. Golf is a great sport to get youth involved in, economic benefits, use of treated water for irrigation that would normally be pumped into the bay, increased revenue to the State, and others.

I will not be able to attend the meeting on October 8th at McCausland hall. I feel this is very important for Westport and hope you will consider the many positive effects a project like this will have for our City.

I live in Tokeland and Im an artisan and a retired person who makes a modest living working here at my studio. While not impacted by the proposed golf links as are those who live in proximity, I think the effects will be felt all through the area.

In a broad sense, I 'm in support of the golf proposal, since I believe that, if well executed and maintained, it could bring more non-beach oriented visitors to South Beach which can have a synergistic effect on other parts of our coastal economy.

South Beach unfortunately suffers from the perception that there is not much "fun" here, and if you want something other than sand and fishing, Ocean Shores and Long Beach have us beat.

There are some riffs that could be played on the Scottish theme as well, which might have some interesting commercial potential for the area.

I plan to be at the meeting Tuesday, but thought I'd share my thoughts in an email.

I am writing you to express my support for the proposed golf course to possibly be built in Westport.

I have been a South Beach resident since 1975. Both of our children graduated from Ocosta Schools.

Back in their growing up years I can see where having something of this nature locally could have been a great asset to their physical fitness programs. Not to mention an opportune local facility to encourage youth employment and athletic sports training.

I am hoping to attend the meeting in Westport on Oct 8th. As a Community Leader and volunteer for the Grayland Community Hall in Grayland 98547, I have seen a need for this type of local recreation. I have participated in numerous Festivals locally and can attest to the fact that whenever there is something that will encourage

tourism to our South Beach it encourages support to all the local amenities, restaurants, motels etc.

The annual Driftwood Show event that takes place in April for example will generate thousands of out of town visitors.

We have registered numerous zip codes from all over the State of Wash as well as Oregon, Idaho and other areas.

If a golf course was in the picture it would allow for tournaments in a geographic area that could be a great asset to local business.

I hope for your success in presenting to our Community your plans and ideas.

Hello Laura

I received the announcement about the potential public-private partnership at Westport Light State Park and upcoming public meeting. Our natural heritage program database at the Department of Natural Resources has one record of a state rare plant species from the vicinity of Westport. The record is for *Sanicula arctopoides* (Bear's foot sanicle), a member of the parsley family with flattened stems and light green leaves with palmate toothy lobes that look like a bear's foot (hence the common name!). In Washington, this species is found only along the Pacific Coast in openings in sand dune communities. A lot of this habitat has been lost to development over the past century, or is being invaded by non-native beachgrass (*Ammophila arenaria* and *A. breviligulata*). The population at Westport was last seen in 1929 (though an attempt was made to relocate it at the wrong time of year in 1981), so we do not know whether it is still present.

You can find more information on this species here:

[https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp\\_nh\\_saar9.pdf?af8zni](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp_nh_saar9.pdf?af8zni)

I should emphasize that *Sanicula arctopoides* is listed as state endangered in Washington by DNR, but has no federal status (or legal protection) under the US Endangered Species Act.

Washington Natural Heritage Program is not a regulatory agency, so we cannot require any actions to be taken for this population in Westport. We hope, however, that this project might have a positive impact by creating habitat conditions the species favors, such as open sandy areas with low cover of competing non-native grasses. If a population of bear's foot sanicle were rediscovered there, or established through introducing seeds or plants, it could have a positive educational impact and demonstrate that this development is compatible with conservation goals.

Walter Fertig

Walter Fertig, PhD

State rare plant botanist

Washington Natural Heritage Program

I hope to attend the meeting next week but if I can't make it I would just like to say we support the idea of establishing a golf course and possibly a small hotel with it!

Several people have said what a great idea it is and I know that my family would definitely golf there!

And I think it would bring more people to Westport - which helps our local economy! I always try to shop local and this just gives people one more thing to do while here!

We have only been here 4 years (since we retired) but we chose Westport and we want to see our community thrive.

Good Morning Laura,

I am writing you in support of the proposed new golf course.

We have a house on Dunecrest just south of the lighthouse and have been splitting time between there and south Seattle since 2012. Before that we have been coming to Westport with friends for over 30 years.

I am very excited about the possibility have a golf course built being in our area. Not only for myself, which I am a golfer but for the added opportunity's that would come with it. I have travelled to Bandon Dunes in Oregon which is another Scottish links style course on the coast. This course is popular to play year round in all kinds of weather. This would fit perfectly with Westport!

I am keeping my fingers crossed this moves forward!

I'm a part-time resident of Westport. I recently heard that you are considering development of a golf course on Westport Light State Park land. In a statement parks made to the press, it was stated that the golf course proposal is consistent with the intent of Washington State Parks' 2015 real estate policy update.....

Is the golf proposal available to the public to read and if so can you direct me to it or send it to me. I will be attending the meeting on Tuesday and it would be helpful to be prepared to ask questions with some knowledge of what is being proposed.

Hi Laura: I was informed by our real estate agent at Windermere, that a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening regarding the above issue. We live 3 hours away, so will not be able to attend.

We purchased a lot back in 2002 on (redacted) and have always been considering building a home. There was a time when the Links golf course was actually started, but then voted down by towns people. This, of course, has impacted the value of our lot and everyone else's property. It would be great to have a high quality golf course built to help the economy of Westport and to also enjoy golfing ourselves!

My husband and I come down periodically to stay in Westport and enjoy what is currently there, but would certainly enjoy more activities. Also, I am sure this would allow more of the businesses to be open in the winter who otherwise are not.

We totally support this concept and wanted to voice our positive opinions. Thank you so much,

Laura,

It was nice to meet with you and get to learn more about the proposed opportunity for Washington State Parks to engage with the group proposing a Scottish Links type of golf course on the Parks land known as the Westport Lighthouse State Park.

This is an opportunity to create additional economic opportunity, commerce, and tourism activity for the area and it also seems to align very well with our State Parks intent to provide access opportunities to the state park's system.

The private investment into this will create jobs, taxes for public services, additional tourism opportunities for citizens of Washington State and complements the other tourism opportunities. It will also provide additional revenue for the State Parks System to offset increasing operating costs.

The environmental concerns at this point seem minimal and in fact may increase the water quality of runoff in the area, reduce noxious weeds, and provide increased access to the area for many citizens.

I represent the citizens of the Westport area on our BOCC and believe this is an appropriate use of the area, will provide good economic benefit, and the community, the city, and the county will benefit from developing a portion of the land into a "world class" golf destination.

*Randy Ross*

Chairman

Grays Harbor County Commissioner – Dist 2

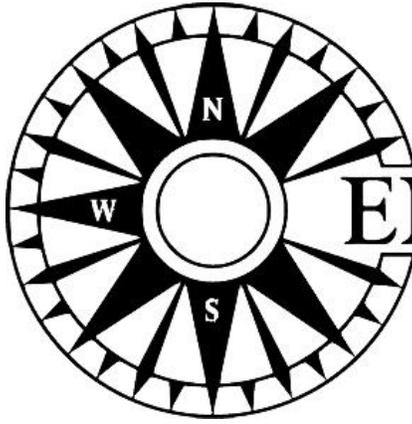
100 W Broadway

Montesano, WA 98563

Phone: 360 249-3731

I would like to indicate my support for the golf course here in Westport. I am the owner of the (redacted) Giftshop. I have been the owner for 37 years. I have listened to golfers over the years. They plan their vacations around where or if there is a golf course. Its a great way to bring more people to our town.

Laura: Unfortunately I am unable to attend the meeting concerning the Westport Golf Links scheduled for tomorrow night. However I wanted to let you know that I enthusiastically support the project. As a lifelong local I know the importance of projects like this on our community and hope it proceeds.....opportunities like this don't come along very often and hopefully this one won't be missed. Thanks.



# ENGLUND MARINE & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY

95 Hamburg Ave

Astoria OR 97103

503-325-4341

October 7, 2019

Dear Laura Moxham,

I am writing you in support of the Scottish Links style golf course that has been proposed in Westport, WA.

Englund Marine Supply has had a marine retail store in Westport since 1975, we serve and have helped marine enthusiasts through the years. Whether a commercial fisherman needing a cable repaired, a sport fisherman looking for some hooks, a business looking for industrial strength tools and safety gear or a person working a home repair project, our Englund Marine crew can provide the technical and problem solving skills that are a necessity to help you find the product needed. We have seven retail stores located up and down the northwest coast.

We've recently built a new building, just across the street from the proposed location of the golf course, which shows our loyalty and commitment to the area. Our local economy is in need of some 'attractions' that would drive them towards our area. Our community would benefit from a golf course as it would broaden the base of visitors which in turn will stimulate the economy for existing businesses as well as attract new ones. Golfing would be available locally which is one less sport to have to travel out of town for, making this area more desirable. We are proud of our community and any improvements to this area would benefit our community.

Sincerely,

Paul Foster  
Manager, Westport Englund Marine & Industrial Supply

Hi Laura,

Just a quick note to say my husband and I support the Parks Dept. continued consideration of a golf course and hotel development in Westport. We built a home in Westport in 2015/16, and while here the majority on the year now, plan to live here full time within the next year.

We would be happy to see this type of development bring much needed revenue to the Parks Dept., and to the current and potential future businesses in Westport and other nearby communities. We are not avid golfers, but would very much enjoy using the course to learn to play and get great outdoor exercise. (We hope that locals will be given a break on fees to use the course, as would so many others, I am sure).

We anticipate that the type of folks drawn to our community by a development of this nature will attract a well-mannered, relatively affluent type of visitor who will likely be willing to spend their vacation dollars in our area restaurants and shops, in addition to the the development golf course and hotel, while respecting our environment and our ordinances.

Dear Washington State Parks Service,

I just moved to Westport 4 months ago, the biggest reason I moved here was because of the large and beautiful Westport Light State Park.

In this world of greed and congestion it's been such a relief to have this special place preserved and protected.

I had always been led to believe that it was the goal of the state parks service to protect and preserve land and the wild life that lives on that land.

I am very disappointed to find that you have turned away from the original goal to protect and preserve and are now entertaining the idea of destroying the natural beauty of this land with a golf course.

Hello Laura,

It has come to my attention that there will be a meeting this Tuesday to discuss the proposed Scottish links Golf course at Lighthouse State Park. My wife and I feel very strongly that this is a great opportunity for the community. Unfortunately we will be out of town and unable to attend the meeting but I felt it is important to voice our opinion through an email at a minimum.

We have been coming to Westport for Camping, surfing and to enjoy the area for the past 9 years. We loved the area so much we purchased a home in Westport so we could spend more time there 6 years ago. Over the course of the last 6 years we have seen businesses close and sit vacant (now including the hardware store) and it is very concerning. It is depressing to see such a nice area with buildings sitting vacant and in disrepair. We have met many of the local business owners and workers and truly want to see them succeed. There needs to be another draw to the area to bring tourist dollars into the area, especially in the off season. The community also needs more employment opportunities to make it possible for young people to

stay in the area and not have to leave to find work elsewhere. My wife and I have had to relocate to find jobs in the past and it has taken us away from family and friends so we know how hard that can be.

The proposed golf course would be a huge benefit to the area in terms of employment and business development. There would be jobs in construction, lodging, at the golf course itself and in trickle-down into the existing and future community businesses. This type of course would be a perfect fit in the grassy dunes around the lighthouse and jetty area! This would also be another healthy sporting option for the young adults in the area on weekends and after school. This would help revitalize Westport and the general area and help protect the future of the community.

Westport is in need of another draw to the area and an infusion of excitement and hope. Please support this great opportunity for the community, it is desperately needed!

I fully support the proposed golf course to be located within the bounds of Westport Light State Park. We purchased land in Westport near the park over ten years ago, which we intended to develop for residential purposes to further support the City of Westport. Each year we have considered initiating construction but the local economy discouraged us from risking additional funds. The proposed improvement has the potential to draw a broader group to the community which will help the local economy while at the same time providing greater public access to this uniquely beautiful land.

With the addition of a thoughtful golf development to the South Beach community we will have a much stronger confidence level as we consider improvements to our own land. Thank you for your consideration and efforts for the local community.

Laura,

We have a home in Westport and are very interested in hearing more about the plans for a Scottish Links style golf course. Unfortunately we will be unable to attend the meeting on Tuesday October 8. We would however like to be kept up to date on what transpires. We understand talks are just beginning but our immediate reaction would be that this would be wonderful addition to the Westport area.

I am out of state and unable to attend the meeting October 8th. I agree 100% with these reasons for support of the Scottish Links at Westport State Park .

When the State Park purchased the 300 acre parcel formerly permitted for a golf course it was with the intention of preserving a large portion of it and leasing part of it out to create revenue which will reduce the cost of maintaining the park. A Scottish Links Golf Course woven through the 600 acres of parkland will do just that. Preserve a large portion of land AND provide an income stream to support the park.

Economic Need - Westport has one of the most beautiful marina's in the state as well as some of the most beautiful beaches and yet the community remains largely unknown to most of western washington. While sport fishing provides an annual draw to our area the seasons can be inconsistent and are subject to change from year to year. Adding a high quality golf course to our surfing and fishing attractions will broaden the base of visitors which in turn will stimulate the economy for existing business as well as attract new ones. Currently our

community has a high vacancy rate in commercial/retail properties and that alone impacts the perception visitors have when they find us.

Park Access Improvement - Currently we have a wonderful paved trail that borders the park on three sides which is a great amenity and the Historical Society has been working with State Parks to expand trail access within the park and increase access and parking on the south end by the Lighthouse. A Scottish Links course incorporates public trails unrelated to golf which will allow non golfers to have much greater use and enjoyment of the park.

Water Use / Reuse - The city of westport has a wastewater plant that filters and treats wastewater before discharging it into the bay. The addition of a secondary treatment process that uses the treated wastewater to irrigate the course would add a 3rd level of filtration and at the same time recharge the aquifer as opposed to draining treated wastewater directly into the bay.

Fire Protection - Currently the land in question is at risk of wildfire. Having areas developed in and around the acreage will create breaks and aid in reducing the risk of fire as well as increase access for firefighting if needed. Scotchbroom and gorse are noxious weeds which are highly flammable when dry and each year more and more acres are becoming dry.

Youth and Activities - Every community struggles to give their children as many outdoor opportunities possible in this electronic age. Having a local course could mean our students can add golf to the high school curriculum. Previous discussions related to a location for a skatepark within the State Park area in an ideal location away from residential use and in open public location may be included in the proposal.

Golf - Many who live on the South Beach travel great distances to enjoy this fresh air sport. Having golf available right here at home will be a fantastic addition both for full time residents, second home owners and short term visitors. In 1995 when this property was owned by the Port of Grays Harbor, community meetings on the South Beach resulted in the Port adding the placement of a golf course on that 300 acres to their vision statement. Our community has been waiting over 25 years to have this amenity available and it is time to make it happen!

I have owned a small property in Westport for several years. I recall when a group bought up most of the town and proposed to build a golf course on the same property. That never happened and they left town with several projects never finished. I believe this is the same group proposing a golf course on now what is State park land. I would be skeptical that could follow through with such a project.

Personally I would not like to see a golf course on the property. Westport is a fishing port and fish processing commercial area and would lose much of its identity if a whole new group of investors moved in and developed the area with upscale housing, condos, and motels, fast food outlets, etc. It will be interesting to see what the locals who live in the area have to say at the public meeting. I do not live in town and will not be able to attend tonight..

I would appreciate follow up information as the Parks system makes any decisions.

Good evening Laura,

I'll most definitely be present at the hearing tomorrow. I've been working the last 16 years towards bringing tourism and more economic opportunities for our small community. As a business owner is hard to be able to offer jobs and maintain talent if you can't offer year round work. A golf course is not a magic switch but a major step in the right direction towards providing year round visitors to the region.

I'm looking forward to hearing what the developers have to say.

Hi, Laura, I just wanted to thank you for the time allotted for giving us the information on the proposed golf course in our state park. I appreciate the inclusion of our groups. However, no matter how I look at it, a golf course for our new state park land would not fit. All the information several of us have unearthed about shore pine, the dominant tree on that land, tells us that the shore pine is a native tree from northern CA up to AK, growing mainly on coastal dunes. It thrives in the nutrient-poor sand dunes and is highly tolerant of salt spray. Whether or not this shore pine stand was planted, it belongs there and it's the ideal dune plant. It lives in wetlands as well. It grows voluntarily on some of our Audubon properties located near the beach. In fact, for one of them, it is the plant that restored a degraded area there. The rest of the park land is very wet in the winter time, flooded even, and is covered mainly in sedges. Folks would be golfing under water. Plus, all over the country, golf courses are closing because the interest in golf has waned enormously in the past decades. I don't think a golf course will save Westport. And developing it could ruin the most extensive habitat area in Westport, one that could support nature trails, picnic areas and maybe some camping and still retain its natural beauty and richness for all visitors to enjoy. It is public park land, for all to treasure. Would be nice to start removing the Scots' broom brought in by the previous attempt at development. That can be fixed.

Laura,

I would like to express our 100% support of this incredible golf course proposal for Westport. We have been waiting many, many years for this.

We had been visiting Westport for several years for the fishing. We finally purchased a home five years ago. We took up golf about the same time and now have to drive into Aberdeen to play golf, which is several times a week. We're very tired of this commute. This Westport golf course would bring so many more people to Westport as a destination, such as Bandon Dunes. It would promote the purchasing of second homes and/or rental properties. It's the perfect use of that 300 acres which is absolutely unusable in its current condition and is a fire hazard. This would bring needed income to Westport which will help stimulate the economy for existing businesses and also attract new ones.

And there are so many other reasons to support this proposal.....  
Looking forward to the meeting tonight.

Just want to put a "no" vote for the idea of using state park land for a "golf course." The state should not use public funds to acquire land and then turn around and use that land for "private development" that would insure a need for further "public" expense to upkeep that "private development."

I spent 24 years in Tucson, Arizona that also used "public" lands for what ultimately numbered 17 golf courses. The "public" then had to put up considerable increases to property taxes to "upkeep" this "public" land that was supposed to be funded by the users of these courses. Also, being a desert, water to green up these courses was also up to the "public" to fund....did I mention this was a desert! I never played golf in my life, but had to PAY additional "assessments" in every years property taxes for those who did!

Nothing is free...especially when the "government" says that it will not cost the taxpayers extra taxes. Since when is the state of Washington in the Golf Course business? You have used Public Money to purchase this land, if the State will not use it, sell it privately, make your profit, and let the end user pay for any expenses that will be generated from its use.

Hi, again, Laura, Although I stand by the content of my last email, I fear I may have been somewhat rude and for that I apologize. I've been thinking about what would be good for the park in its development in place of the golf course idea. Some suggestions:

Trails - a trail to the lighthouse from the NE corner (the original 37 acres you all had slated for development); a fitness trail, an interpretive trail; a loop trail around the park, past the lighthouse, then on to the dune walkway and back around the northern area to the origin.

It wouldn't hurt to leave the park undeveloped for a while, except for trails. However, perhaps a modest development of cabins and yurts for winter camping, with sheltered picnic tables; perhaps a playground; restrooms on the NE side; perhaps a cafe/camp store. I think Westport lacks enough places to eat in the summer and most everything is closed in the winter. Well, just some ideas that I think would have minimal impact on the overall natural state of the park. And that could provide the public with some interesting reasons to visit Westport. Thanks for listening.

I was so incensed at the meeting last night that I crafted a letter to the editor in my head on the way home. But before I send out such a letter, I wanted to send you another email on the subject matter of conversion of our public park into a golf course which will eliminate much public use and destroy the environment (mainly the native shore pine forest). I was prepared with written notes on speaking remarks for the meeting, but you chose to use sticky notes instead. I felt at the time that you did this to save time with such a huge crowd but you can't put nuances or intelligent comments on a sticky note. You and Jessica did a pretty good job handling the huge crowd in the circumstances but why did you agree to the idea of having people rise their hands to show support for the project? That just gives out bad feelings among and between the citizens. And with all the "100% behind..." remarks, it showed that proponents had organized the crowd beforehand. There was definitely intimidation at work last night.

None of the photos of the so-called links golf courses showed any trees and hardly any bushes. To replicate any of these expansive green-grass spaces, our native forest would have to be cut

down. That is inexcusable! So few of the questions about any project details were answered that I wondered what the heck the proponent had been doing all year. And yet he promised the gullible community that the project would generate \$30,000,000 in revenue each year! Who is this guy and exactly who are all the investors waiting in the wings, according to him? I have far too many questions to put into a single email.

This planned destruction of a beautiful natural area of public land for the benefit of a few and to the detriment of the majority of Washingtonians is reprehensible and will damage the reputation of State Parks for many years to come. So please tell the director that this is a big mistake.

Hi Laura,

I want to commend you for your efforts running the meeting last night. I have no doubt that the pro-business and pro-golf contingent drove their supporters to the meeting in droves, and because of that, the room was much too small. You and Jessica did a very good job under the stressful circumstances.

I hope that we soon have time to provide comments again. When that happens - I hope a much larger hall will be secured. Also, I think folks should have to sign up to provide comments. The use of sticky notes in this case gave the supporters a chance to easily preface their comment with "I am 100% behind this proposal" and the like. Preparing an oral comment takes effort, but writing on a sticky note gives folks an easy way to express anger and frustration. In my opinion, the statement "I'm 100% behind this proposal" should not have been read aloud.

Also, something should have been done to limit situations when people laughed at our comments. For example, my comment about the extraordinarily rare plant found at the site drew a lot of laughter. I don't think the pro-golf folks would have appreciated laughter at their comments.

I think we should have had a proponent of the shoreline forest get up and discuss why it is important to preserve these last remaining areas. If you would consider such a speaker, I volunteer to help find someone.

Lastly, I don't see the purpose of the hand-raising exercise. It further polarizes the community. I hope this doesn't happen again.

Thanks again for your efforts to share the planning process with the community. I know it isn't easy.

Laura, we attended the meeting last night about the proposed golf course on the Westport Light parks property. We have concerns about the proposal and about the way the meeting was run. We hope you will take this into consideration for future meetings.

There was a very organized group of people who are pushing this project who made sure supporters attended the meeting. There were many people we know who are opposed who were not able to attend because of conflicts due to the short notice about the meeting. The

process really didn't allow for an opposition discussion. The sticky notes were basically worthless. Whoever wrote the most got the most attention. That's hardly a way to make decisions. Many people who attended the meeting but don't support the project felt intimidated, especially during the hand raising, which was also not the best way to make decisions.

We are also very concerned that there hasn't been proper due diligence concerning the developer. He admitted he didn't have the money but would surely get "investors". The last time, the previous developer promised there would be investors and that never happened. Are you really willing to spend public money on a promise? The citizens also need a way to research Westport Golf, LLC and Mr. Dayes (we never saw his name written so have no idea how he spells it.)

We hope the legal process of SEPA, a possible EIS, and Army Corps 404 will be given maximum time for analysis and public comment. It also wasn't made clear that the Park Commissioners decision can be challenged and isn't necessarily final.

This is a very important decision that has future implications for one of the last remaining undeveloped interdunal wetland mosaic on the west coast that is publicly-owned. We are in full support of Parks developing this property for the general public to use in an appropriate, ecologically sustainable way.

Hello Laura,

We were unable to attend the community meeting tonight but did watch it via the Facebook Livestream from John Shaw of the Historical Society. Thank you for enabling that viewing!

We learned that the lot north of us owned by the City of Westport will be included in the planning process. It seemed like the draft map in your slide presentation showed a red marking for potential concession areas along the south edge of the City property and the east edge of the State Park south of that corner. Hard to see on the Livestream video.

This is the only area of the whole State Park / City Parcel combination that borders private residences. Thus it does not seem logical to put concession areas so close to private homes. It would make more sense to put concession areas along Ocean Avenue and / or Forest. It would also seem more "neighborly" of the State Park system to preserve a fenced and forested buffer zone along the relatively small areas bordering private residences. Most of us that bought these properties did so because of the quiet and privacy provided by bordering park land. Please keep us in mind.

Thank you again for the committee meeting.

Dear Ms. Moxham:

Please see the following as my submission of public comments as pertains to the proposed partnership between Washington State Parks and Westport Golf LLC to develop a Scottish Links course in the vicinity of Westport Light State Park properties.

Thanks for your time.

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I have been a full-time resident and homeowner in the city of Westport since April 2000. In addition I have been an active member of many coastal conservation efforts for the last 15 years in Grays Harbor County including six years as the Washington Pacific Coast Coordinator for the Surfrider Foundation from 2008 until 2013. I have a sincere interest in the economic development and above all the environmental sustainability of this very small and unique piece of coastline. It has already undergone a very sorted development process and FAILURE of one 18 hole, Scottish Links golf course and in it's wake left a mound of uprooted vegetation, dilapidated habitat, and acres upon acres of barren dunes; which in turn likely displaced sensitive fish and wildlife. It was deemed at the time in the mid 2000's that the area chosen for this development was two thirds wetlands. Yet proceedings took place anyway to build the course. I have trouble remembering all the facts of the 1000's of dollars spent on legal battles surrounding the course's placement but I recall a HUGE backlash by this community as a whole that a golf course was going to be built upon one of the very few pristine and untouched areas that the city had to offer.

This brings me to the main drawback of such a proposal. An 18 hole golf course is a MASSIVE amount of acreage. Compared to the size of this town and the public green spaces offered currently or available in the future it would encompass most of what is now and would be available to residents and visitors alike as far as recreational, accessible land use. This is not Seaside, Oregon for instance. This is a tiny town of 2200 or so individuals. There are so FEW areas available that are not subject to either business use or private building use available here and it would be, in my mind and the mind of dozens I've spoken to in recent weeks, a travesty to utilize what small amount of available natural areas are still vacant for a golf course.

The second point I'd like to raise is simply that State Parks has some wonderful ideas for interesting, sustainable and LOW impact recreational amenities MINUS a golf course and it seems these types of things would be a better fit for a small, close knit, and very SEASONAL community such as Westport. Activities that wouldn't be impacted by the five to six months per year of massive storm and rain activity that would render most golf courses useless or at least overlooked. In my experience with golfing a challenging course is one thing but to have it defunct more than half the year would be a detriment in many cases after the amount of money for upkeep is spent for upkeep such as the winter flooding of the wetlands that takes place in the dune area of the proposed site which I can personally attest to extending from Westport Light State Park north to Jetty Haul Road. It is annually consistent and severe. Hence wetlands. The course is mentioned as being "artisanal" and "low impact". Whether Scottish links style or not, a golf course construction requires a MASSIVE environmental footprint to build and sustain. Fertilizers and pesticides will be used even if in smaller amounts than some other courses. Wildlife and habitat WILL be impacted.

I realize State Parks may see this as a win win in that they will help receive funding for endeavors they have a vested interest in (interpretive trails and other actual low impact amenities) but to become entangled in such a project as this golf course seems a poor judgment. It was my understanding the dunes were purchased originally by Parks as a PRESERVATION measure. Preservation to me speaks of natural environments, sustainability, and public access. None of which, in my mind, a golf course represents.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend tonight's meeting but I hope to continue to stay involved in discussions on this proposal. I hope State Parks will invest their funds and interests in projects that are more sustainable, environmentally sound, and community friendly than an 18 hole golf course.

Thanks for you time and consideration of these comments.

Unfortunately my husband and I are traveling and are unable to attend the 10/8 meeting at McCausland Hall in Westport regarding the proposed golf course within the Lighthouse State Park.

We have owned property in Westport since 2004 - also since the time we used to enjoy watching the chain saw championships held in Westport. It seemed we were a vibrant community then. A lot has changed, businesses and people have come and gone. Now there are a lot of empty business buildings. But, there has remained that one constant - Westport is a great little town with a wonderful marina that could blossom into a thriving community.

Having a golf course will not only be good for existing businesses, but will also bring more businesses into Westport. It could bring conference attendees from Olympia and Seattle. More people will travel to Westport and discover what a gem we really have here and they will visit more often.

In talking to several people outside of Westport, so many people don't even know about Westport. If the golf course is approved, it can't help but stimulate our economy and provide more jobs to our people. Plus, it will help our kids adding not only more to their curriculum, but also providing them with after school and weekend jobs. Not to mention all of the adults in town that would love to play golf in their town.

The last Scottish Links course my husband and I played was in Sea Ranch, California. Another gem of a town.

Our vote is to approve the proposed Westport Lighthouse golf course.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hi Laura,

We are in favor of the Westport Lighthouse Golf Course proposal. We have property in Grayland that has been in the family since the late 1800's.

We currently own the home on that property that we use as a vacation rental and the golf course would certainly attract golfers as well as fishing interests.

We plan on attending the meeting Tuesday evening and look forward the presentation.

What a fun project to work on! Should be an interesting process. I followed the last golf course proposal pretty close. Being a surfer and a golfer, I see this as a win win!

<http://www.thedailyworld.com/news/state-parks-considering-golf-course-lodging-proposal-for-westport-light-state-park/>

Laura-

It was great to have met you and all those involved at the event yesterday.

Thank you for taking the time to inform our community on what is being proposed and what actions are being taken. It is sincerely appreciated.

I believe it was addressed yesterday, but thank you for allowing me to confirm that I heard correctly. Is it an accurate statement to say that although community input is welcome, the final decision on approval will be rendered by State of WA and the Parks Department? As in, this will not be a democratic process- correct?

Thank you for your time and I hope you do not become too overwhelmed with question. Making your business cards available was a bold move on your part! 😊

You carry yourself well and put together an excellent presentation.

All the best and I hope we cross paths again!

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Good Afternoon,

I remember! It was nice meeting you. Thank you for coming.

To answer your question, the final decision on the master plan, and concession agreement falls on the State Parks Commission. State Parks is governed by a 7 member governor appointed Commission that will ultimately make the final decision on this project. However, the decision to continue to move forward with a master planning process is the State Park's Director, Don Hoch. The purpose of Tuesday's meeting was to gauge the community sentiment on the idea of the golf course.

Community response will be part of the decision making process for Don, but you are correct it is not a vote. I hope that answers your question.

And thank you for the compliment! Much appreciated!

-Laura Moxham

Dear Washington State Parks Service,

I just moved to Westport 4 months ago, the biggest reason I moved here was because of the large and beautiful Westport Light State Park.

In this world of greed and congestion it's been such a relief to have this special place preserved and protected.

I had always been led to believe that it was the goal of the state parks service to protect and preserve land and the wild life that lives on that land. I am very disappointed to find that you have turned away from the original goal to protect and preserve and are now entertaining the idea of destroying the natural beauty of this land with a golf course.

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(Name redacted),

Thank you for writing. I am forwarding your message to my colleague Laura Moxham, who is leading the project to determine whether a golf course will be appropriate for the park.

-Nikki Fields

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Thank-you for getting back to me Nicki, I had a thought, I realize Westport wants to have something that will draw more people here -- how about a large indoor shopping mall, unlike an outdoor golf course that won't be very attractive in the many rainy days we have here, a huge indoor mall will be attractive to people all year and it could have a nice indoor golf course if feasible, if we encouraged the native Americans to build a gambling casino near-by, this would be a huge draw also, then get the fairy back up and running to bring people back and forth between Westport and Ocean shores, (this will benefit both areas) allow fast food franchises to move here, that in itself will make the place more attractive to visitors. These ideas I'm suggesting would bring people to Westport without having to destroy so much of the natural beauty and wildlife that we have here.

Please don't destroy the forest trail that starts right across the street from the Light house bistro and cuts over to the ocean walk way.

---

Hi Laura,

I'm glad I was able to chat with you after the presentation. I am encouraged by the massive turnout in favor of the proposal and that two commissioners were in attendance to see our support. The letters others may be referring to was an email I sent to others with aspects of the proposal which I felt had merit. I hoped that people would add their own as well since my list was not comprehensive.

Here is my input in favor of the proposal.

Thank you for setting up the presentation for our community related to the proposal to site a Scottish Links Style golf course on the Lighthouse State Park Property. I am strongly in favor of this proposal as I feel it will enhance our economic base and at the same time improve the condition of the acreage between the Lighthouse and the Jetty from it's current condition. I grew up in Westport. During the 50's, 60's and 70's we had a strong economy and it was a

fantastic place to live, work and visit. When I graduated I joined the army to fly helicopter and spent the 80's flying around the country doing various flying jobs.

I returned to Westport in 1991 to find a fractured economy and for the past 30 years I have worked to help stabilize and improve the economy to help local families thrive. In 1995 the 300 acre parcel now owned by State Parks was owned by the Port of Grays Harbor. They held public meetings to determine what the local community would like done on the property. Local support for a resort hotel and golf course was so strong that the Port of Grays Harbor included that in its Mission Statement. They proceeded to market the property nationally in hopes of attracting a developer but did not succeed.

In 1997 the City of Westport went through a land use and zoning review of all property in Westport. At that time the zoning was broad for that 300 acres to include industrial use, commercial use and more. The result of numerous public hearings related to zoning was that the 300 acre parcel was the ONLY property zoned "tourist commercial" which no longer allowed industrial use but was specific within it's approved uses as only destination resort hotel, golf course and related retail and residential. The city then proceeded to market the property on behalf of the Port as they felt the placement of a golf course and hotel at that location was key in turning the economy around in Westport.

In 1999 a developer stepped up and proposed exactly what the community had been asking. We met with State Parks to inquire whether it would be possible to exchange some of the uplands near the lighthouse for a larger parcel of wetlands so the course could be laid out over the best terrain. Those we met with were favorable in general but due to the length of time it would take to get a decision the developer moved forward on just the 300 acres. Unfortunately there was a series of issues and events that prevented what in my opinion should have been approved and completed.

Here we are almost 20 years later and the local economy is as fragile as ever. Westport and our beautiful beach remains relatively underutilized and unknown. We operate with old fishing motels and businesses that can't/don't operate all year long. The proposal before you today is superior in nearly every aspect to the proposal of 1999. Here are some of the key points that I feel make the proposal a clear Win for the community a Win for State Parks and a Win for the state.

**Land Use / Revenue Generation** - When the State Park purchased the 300 acre parcel formerly permitted for a golf course it was with the intention of preserving a large portion of it and leasing part of it out to create revenue which will reduce the cost of maintaining the park. A low impact Scottish Links Golf Course woven through the 600 acres of parkland will do just that. Preserve a large portion of land AND provide an income stream to support the park.

**Economic Need** - Westport has one of the most beautiful marina's in the state as well as some of the most beautiful beaches and yet the community remains largely unknown to most of western washington. While sport fishing provides an annual draw to our area the seasons can be inconsistent and are subject to change from year to year. Adding a high quality golf course to our surfing and fishing attractions will broaden the base of visitors which in turn will

stimulate the economy for existing business as well as attract new ones. Currently our community has a high vacancy rate in commercial/retail properties and that alone impacts the perception visitors have when they find us.

**Park Access Improvement** - Currently we have a wonderful paved trail that borders the park on three sides which is a great amenity and the Historical Society has been working with State Parks to expand trail access within the park and increase access and parking on the south end by the Lighthouse. A Scottish Links course incorporates public trails unrelated to golf which will allow non golfers to have much greater use and enjoyment of the park.

**Water Use / Reuse** - The city of westport has a wastewater plant that filters and treats wastewater before discharging it into the bay. The addition of a secondary treatment process that uses the treated wastewater to irrigate the course would add a 3rd level of filtration and at the same time recharge the aquifer as opposed to draining treated wastewater directly into the bay.

**Fire Protection** - Currently the land in question is at risk of wildfire. Having areas developed in and around the acreage will create breaks and aid in reducing the risk of fire as well as increase access for firefighting if needed. Scotchbroom and gorse are noxious weeds which are highly flammable when dry and each year more and more acres are becoming dry. The habitat existing through most of the area seems overgrown with marginal quality. The design plan could/should include habitat enhancements that increase value and protections while adding increased enjoyment.

**Youth and Activities** - Every community struggles to give their children as many outdoor opportunities possible in this electronic age. Having a local course could mean our students can add golf to the high school curriculum. Previous discussions related to a location for a skate park within the State Park area in an ideal location away from residential use and in open public location may be included in the proposal.

**Golf** - Many who live on the South Beach travel great distances to enjoy this fresh air sport. Having golf available right here at home will be a fantastic addition both for full time residents, second home owners and short term visitors. In 1995 when this property was owned by the Port of Grays Harbor, community meetings on the South Beach resulted in the Port adding the placement of a golf course on that 300 acres to their vision statement. Our community has been waiting over 25 years to have this amenity available and it is time to make it happen!

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to participating in this process and to the eventual approval and development of this much needed amenity!

Greetings, I attended the meeting on October 6th about the proposed Golf Links. I was pleasantly surprised at the number of citizens that showed up for this meeting. Some thoughts I have. I looked up the Bandon Golf course in Oregon, and learned some interesting things: Only about 174 people total work for the course to some compaction, not 500 or 3000 as mentioned, the population of the whole town is 3000 not everyone works the

Golf club. Also mentioned is that there was not a significant increase in monies going into the local community, many who played golf, stated on the golf property and spent their money there not in the town.

So here are some of my thought: Why not build a camp ground, all the local camp grounds are filled each summer, spring and fall. One has to make reservations in a year in advance to get a spot. Surfers, campers would use this facility and it brings money into the community.

Create an interpretive center that has hands on activities for visitors, year round facility out of the wind, rain. Provide educational activities.

Have students from Ocosta Elementary 3-12 graders involved with a stewardship program where invasive plants are removed, native plants are planted while educating students about the regions plants, wildlife and history. ( I was involved with restoring a lake in Seattle that was DEAD got together with the corps of engineers, Parks Dept, conservation groups, with the help of these agencies and students at my grade school grade 3- 6 cleaned up the lake had cars pulled out of the lake, pulled invasive plants, planted native plants, and provided education about lakes ecosystem , and after two years of working on this lake, the great blue heron came back to the lake not seen in 25 years, fish were released , now a vibrant lake without pollution. All this done by students. We were awarded the Conservation Award and Earth Heroes Award. Westport a unique place that has rich ecosystems. Let's be smart in how we develop this piece of real estate.

I would also like to see new Aquarium. I look forward to other local meetings regarding the use of the parcel of land.

We are Grayland residents for over 20 years. We live in an oceanfront home on Salt Aire Boulevard in Grayland. We are basically retired but own several rental houses and self storage units in Grayland and Westport. A golf course would be a good addition to our area. We also need a good dinner restaurant. Additional business is good as long as it does not disturb our quiet beach lifestyle.

Hello! I just read about the possibility of a public golf course and other businesses being proposed for the Westport Lighthouse Park area and my husband and I welcome it with open arms! We purchased a home 1 yr ago & wanted to start a beach bike rental but got such bad feedback from the locals saying there's not enough tourists to be sustainable. I had heard about the golf course plan from years ago that didn't see fruition and it was a sad feeling that came over me. Westport has a world class beach, beautiful paths and boasts bike routes for miles (even refers to the low speed limit for safe cycling around the city limits) on Westport City guide online. The main reason we moved and purchased in Westport is to enjoy the beach and park area and to hopefully watch it grow and expand into a gorgeous destination filled with endless possibilities. I guess I'm writing to you to please think forward about the future of Westport and not get stuck back in time with outdated minds. Thanks for listening and we are so excited to listen to the ideas being brought forward!!!