City of Seattle
Paul Schell, Mayor
Office of the Mayor

April 17, 2001

Dear Citizen:

I am pleased to provide you with the culmination of the past year's efforts by both the City's Department of Design, Construction and Land Use (DCLU) and Strategic Planning Office (SPO) to inventory and assess views of the Space Needle from public vantage points. Views represent one of the values in Seattle that confirm our livability and commitment to environmental quality as a City and a region.

In particular, Seattle's topography and unsurpassed natural setting have allowed everyone to enjoy Seattle's sweeping vistas, natural features, waterbodies, and landmark features. However, in order to ensure that we are able to achieve our goals for managed growth, a sustainable quality environment, and a liveable city, we must make choices. Some of these choices are presented in the attached *Seattle View Protection Policies – Space Needle, Executive Report and Recommendations* and the *View Inventory and Assessment*. I believe we can accomplish our many objectives if we make the right sacrifices, understand the consequences of our actions, and move forward with constructive ideas.

Some of those actions, consequences, and ideas are explained in these documents. The Space Needle was chosen for the initial review because it is one of the city's most recognized landmarks and is enjoyed by so many throughout the city as a wayfinder, as a reminder of our past and commitment to the future, and as a feature that figures prominently during some of the city's varied celebrations.

I am proposing that we continue our commitment to the necessary resources and priorities to apply this methodology and assessment to more widely evaluate our public view resources, especially where our existing policies remain unclear and lack the direction to strike the right balance among our many competing objectives.

I encourage your participation in the public process to provide the necessary direction to your elected officials and to shape our environment and meet our many goals and objectives as a city. I look forward to your support as we continue to look for ways to reinforce the values and characteristics that make Seattle the place we care about so much.

Very truly yours,

Paul Schell

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