



**To:** Board of Directors  
Seattle Public Schools

c/o Cleveland High School Alumni Association  
21006 SE 268<sup>th</sup> Court  
Covington, WA 98042

**Subject: CHS Memorial Forest**

The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate my support for the plan to protect the Cleveland High School (CHS) Memorial Forest.

It is my understanding that Seattle Public Schools (SPS) and the King County Parks Department (KCPD) have developed a plan to protect the longevity of the CHS Memorial Forest by having SPS sell the development rights of the Memorial Forest property to the KCPD where it would become a part of their forest conservation project. Under this plan, the KCPD would pay a significant amount of money to SPS to acquire the development rights of the property. SPS would retain ownership but an easement would be placed on the property such that SPS or any future owner would be prohibited from developing the property for any other use. It would remain a protected forest forever.

This plan is in keeping with the intent when the property was gifted to SPS. The property was paid for by CHS students who collected money during World War II. The property was purchased at a tax auction of logged-off land. Vice Principal Ray Imus made a bid for \$300 and no one bid against him when they learned that the students hoped to create a memorial forest to honor their fallen classmates. The property was purchased in the name of Principal Kenneth Selby in July of 1944. When Mr. Selby retired in December of 1944, it was determined that the high school could not own property. Ownership of the property was gifted to SPS to serve as a perpetual memorial to . . .

**“ . . . the Cleveland boys who lost their lives during the war.”**

This property was given as a gift and accepted by the Seattle School Board as a perpetual memorial.

Today, the CHS Memorial Forest is 131.52 acres of beautiful second-growth timber all due to the CHS students and staff who planted over 10,000 trees comprised of Sitka Spruce, Douglas Fir and Western Red Cedar.

**I send this letter to demonstrate my support of the plan to protect the longevity of the CHS Memorial Forest by having SPS sell the development rights of the property to the KCPD so the property can never be developed for any other use by SPS or any future owner.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_