

Lynnwood City Council
City of Lynnwood
19100 44th Ave W
Lynnwood, WA 98036

Honorable Councilmembers:

The 56th Legislature passed 2SSB 5452 in 1999 authorizing the creation of public facilities districts for the purposes of constructing and maintaining conference, convention and special events centers. Since the passage of this legislation, our state has benefited from the economic development that public facilities have brought to many communities.

The same year the law was passed, the City of Lynnwood formed a public facilities district to construct the outstanding Lynnwood Event Center, a state-of-the-art facility that serves the entire region as a venue for a variety of special events. As specified in the authorizing legislation, the Lynnwood City Council is tasked with appointing a board of directors to govern the district.

Earlier this year, four of the five board members of the district took a vote of no confidence concerning Director Vivian Dong. In a letter to you on July 11, 2023, board members cited a number of actions that undermined the operations and mission of the district.

As public officials, we all take on the responsibility to balance our personal and political activities with our fiduciary duties to the public we serve. As outlined in the Board's letter, Director Dong has not demonstrated an ability to balance her activities and her obligations to govern the District in the best interests of the public.

The long-term sustainability of the Lynnwood Public Facilities District is important to the state and to our region, and its success is built on a foundation of trust between the district and the community it serves.

For this reason, we respectfully request that you accept the recommendation of the Board of Directors not to reappoint Vivian Dong.

Thank you for your diligent consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Senator Marko Lias
21st Legislative District

Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self
21st Legislative District

Representative Strom Peterson
21st Legislative District

Senator Jesse Salomon
32nd Legislative District

Representative Cindy Ryu
32nd Legislative District