



# Secretary of State

*Kim Wyman*

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March 5, 2021

The Hon. Patty Murray, Senator  
The Hon. Suzan DelBene, Representative  
The Hon. Jaime Herrera Beutler, Representative  
The Hon. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Representative  
The Hon. Pramila Jayapal, Representative  
The Hon. Adam Smith, Representative

The Hon. Maria Cantwell, Senator  
The Hon. Rick Larsen, Representative  
The Hon. Dan Newhouse, Representative  
The Hon. Derek Kilmer, Representative  
The Hon. Kim Schrier, Representative  
The Hon. Marilyn Strickland, Representative

Dear Members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation:

As you know, a federal judge blocked the U.S. government from expediting the sale and closure of the National Archives facility in Seattle, Washington. On Feb. 12, Judge John C. Coughenour issued a preliminary injunction ruling that Attorney General Bob Ferguson was likely to prevail in his lawsuit asserting that the federal government acted unlawfully when it moved to sell the facility and relocate the records hundreds of miles away in Riverside, California, and Kansas City, Missouri.

I applaud the judge's ruling and believe this is an important step in preserving access to our region's precious archives. With this decision comes a renewed opportunity for Congress to enact a long-term solution that will keep these records safe, secure, and accessible for researchers, historians, Tribes, and many others throughout the Pacific Northwest. During your consideration of potential options for these valuable and irreplaceable records, I welcome your collaboration with me and my staff at Washington State Archives, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State. As the office charged with storing and preserving our state's archival treasures, Washington State Archives stands ready to lend our expertise and wealth of knowledge regarding preservation practices, our decades-long industry partnership with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and the importance of the archives currently stored in the Seattle facility.

The Office of the Secretary of State has made records preservation and management a priority. In 2019, the Office secured critical funding for a new State Library-Archives Building that will house many of our state's historical materials in a new state-of-the-art facility in Tumwater, Washington. During my conversations with your offices and key stakeholders throughout Washington state, I also offered the idea to collocate a new NARA facility adjacent to the site of our planned building, providing a hub conveniently located along the I-5 corridor for people to access archival resources preserved by both the state and federal governments. The State Library-Archives Building is in the midst of the pre-design phase, with plans to break ground in the summer of 2022.

I want to thank each of you for your continued attention to this issue and your dedication to preserving our state's rich history. If I or my office can be of any assistance as you weigh long-term storage and preservation solutions, please do not hesitate to reach out directly.

Sincerely,

Kim Wyman  
Secretary of State