

Visiting Orcas Island

This week, I visited Orcas Island for a roundtable with community leaders to discuss 2021 legislative session. I met with San Juan County staff to discuss local updates and how we can continue to support the county in their work in addressing climate change, natural resource management, and vessel traffic.

In addition, I joined Jeanne Beck, Director of Stewardship and Project Manager of OPAL Community Land Trust, and County Councilmember Cindy Wolf to tour the successful [April's Grove](#) project, which provides 45 affordable rental townhomes in Eastsound. I am continuously proud of the work OPAL is doing to bring affordable housing to the Orcas Island community and look forward to seeing their work continue to grow.

Finally, I shared remarks at the ceremony to honor the Red Road to DC Totem Pole Journey and the House of Tears carvers on the traditional village site of the Lhaq'temish people on Madrona Point, Orcas Island. Learn more in this [recent article in the San Juan Islander](#).



In the News

At the end of last month, the governor signed into law [House Bill 1356](#), my bill to no longer allow the derogatory use of Native Americans as mascots in public schools. Already this new law is making a difference! Read about the changes happening in the Spokane region in this [recent article from KUOW](#).

After young members of the Spokane Tribe shared concerns, the Spokane Tribe chose to not endorse any school's request to keep their mascots. Schools are now required to request the permission of a tribe to use Native American imagery due to a new state law. - via [KUOW](#)

I look forward to meeting with leaders from the Spokane School District later today to learn more about their implementation process. Community education and outreach is key as we learn and heal together.