

Letter of Support
Urban Homestead Foundation

May 26, 2017

I am pleased to express my support of the Urban Homestead Foundation's efforts to purchase the land at the corner of Dakota and 50th Avenue SW. The proposed project "will establish an active green space and urban gathering center that models, promotes and teaches green building and sustainable food systems through community and leadership development".

As West Seattle continues to experience growth, with dozens of mixed use buildings being built along California Avenue and hundreds of new residents moving in, this effort will greatly benefit the Genesee Hill/Schmitz Park neighborhood and surrounding areas by providing a unique 'third place' to gather community and teach sustainable green practices and urban agriculture through demonstration gardens, weekly classes and seasonal events. There are currently no spaces in the West Seattle area that provide these opportunities. The Dakota Homestead will also serve as a food hub and seed lending library, connecting neighbors with each other and local farmers.

In addition, the land is directly across the street from Genesee Hill Elementary, currently the largest neighborhood elementary school in Seattle Public Schools, with 750+ students and growing. The preservation of this land will provide an open green space for the school, as well as other schools in the area, to use as curriculum enrichment in topics such as edible gardening, urban wildlife, seasonal cooking, crafting and home finances.

The purchase of this property has great potential to bring together a diverse cross section of a community as it manages growing pains, by creating a space to learn from each other and experience nature together. I am in support of this inspirational and necessary project in our community, and I hope you will join me in ensuring its success.

Sincerely,



Lisa Herbold

Seattle City Councilmember, District 1