



Snohomish County Council

NEWS RELEASE

For Release: March 23, 2006

Contact: Eric Parks, Legislative Aide to Councilmember Somers (425) 388-3494

Ball Field Ordinance Signing this Saturday

Snohomish County Councilmember Dave Somers invites the public to attend the signing of the ball fields ordinances recently passed by the County Council.

This special event will take place Saturday, March 25th at 11am at the North Snohomish Little League Ball Field Complex – 9621 115th Avenue, Snohomish.

On Wednesday March 15th the Snohomish County Council approved an ordinance which authorizes the continued use of several ball fields that had been illegally constructed on farmland. In 2005, the Washington State Legislature passed a new law allowing the County to “grandfather” in existing ball fields that otherwise would not be allowed.

“This is a great compromise” stated Councilmember Dave Somers. “We are providing heavily used recreational fields for our kids and at the same time protecting farmland from further development. I think this is a win-win.”

“Open spaces such as ball fields are so important to our communities” said Councilmember Dave Gossett. “I am proud of the County’s efforts and the partnerships we forged to bring about a change in the law.”

The new state law was prompted by the existence of a number of un-permitted fields in the County and surrounding region. In 2003, a King County court ruled farmlands could not be converted to recreational uses.

“The politics are over. It’s time to play ball!” said Councilmember John Koster. “This is a great way to provide fields for our young people at a reasonable cost.”

The recreational facilities must now apply for applicable permits and undergo environmental and traffic review.

- END -