



Snohomish County Council

NEWS RELEASE

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Sax Amendment Gives Ballfields Break From Tax-Man

The Snohomish County Council has voted 5 to 0 to allow for an open space status, granting them property tax exemptions to the North and South Snohomish Little Leagues, which own and play on fields just east of Snohomish.

“This was the right thing to do,” stated Sax. “Their original open space application was denied by our Planning Department, however, after changes in recent state law that allow for recreational use on agricultural lands, I worked with our staff to offer an amendment reflecting the change and granting the exemption.”

The North Snohomish Little League’s tax bill would have been \$8,000, with the South Snohomish Little League’s bill at \$7,000. Had the exemption not been granted, the leagues may have faced raising player’s fees on the 1,300+ kids who participate in the leagues.

“When you put it into perspective, \$15,000 of county funds, out of a budget that is over \$600 million, it is a wise investment in keeping these facilities open to our community,” added Sax. “With our restrictions, codes and insurance rates, the county cannot come anywhere close to providing services such as these at this price. It’s a bargain.”

The leagues are now working with county staff on the permit process to legalize the once red-tagged fields for long-term use under a new state law that the County Council has lobbied for over the past three legislative sessions. The process is estimated to take up to six months, with final consideration before the County Council currently slated for December of this year.

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