LETTER TO THE STATE LEGISLATORS
POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF KOPACHUCK AND OTHER STATE PARKS

We urgently appeal to all State Legislators to retain Kopachuck State (and/or all State Parks) from being cut from the 2009/10 State Budget. Understanding that you are facing difficult decisions, we truly appreciate your efforts in these trying times. We would like to call the following points to your attention in making this decision:

1. The loss of a unique and valuable natural resource to campers, hikers, kayakers, scuba divers and all who appreciate nature is not in our best interests
2. Criteria and evaluation of the parks in Vision 2013 was done without the benefit of public input and is based on a subjective evaluation of outdated information
3. Revenue and jobs should be retained, especially in our current economic crisis. Closing a State managed park with proximity to urban areas is detrimental to our property values and to local business revenues.
4. Protecting the Parks within the State system ensures the safety and security of those who visit it. Trained Park Rangers have the expertise and authority to enforce regulations and educate park users in ways that will enhance their experience and preserve the existing features of the park and adjacent properties.
5. Preserving the forests, habitat, aquifers and shoreline of Kopachuck State Park is vital! Were the park closed, there is still a very real possibility that it could be returned to the state park system should economic conditions eventually improve. It is imperative that any designated local agency acting as caretaker should be pledged beforehand to retain the park in its current state, and not to alter any portion of the park for new uses.

We are asking for your help in preserving parks that give us the opportunity to enjoy recreation close to home in an affordable, safe and enriching way. PLEASE do not make your decision in haste – our families are counting on you!

Printed Name	Signature	Address

Please mail completed petitions to: **POP/Preserve Our Park**
PO Box 2325
Gig Harbor, WA
98335

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