

Molly McGuire

From: Joe Schocken <jls@tranceka.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 11:46 AM
To: Council
Subject: In support of JCC amendment

To the Mercer Island City Council

My name is Joe Schocken and we live on 77th Ave SE.

First, a very sincere thanks to our dedicated public officials for their service to our community and I am speaking in favor of the JCC amendment.

As you all know, and as attested to by the many letters and speakers, the JCC is recognized as an important and valuable part of the Mercer Island community. It is one of those institutions that makes our community special. As you also know, maintaining and modernizing non profit institutions is exceptionally expensive and difficult these days.

I believe public officials have a duty to support our most important community institutions, to do everything in their power to help those institutions succeed. The JCC is one of our community's most important institutions, it needs to grow and modernize, it needs this amendment for the many reasons stated and I urge its adoption.

I would like to make one other point. The JCC has served the Mercer Island community for 55 years. I think it is a safe assumption that those speaking against the amendment all bought their homes during that time and, therefore, were fully aware of the J and its impact. Institutions do tend to grow over time, none of this should be a surprise.

I am reminded of SeaTac, our regional airport, which is constantly growing. It faces opposition from some neighbors over its growth plan. They all bought their homes near the airport, knew what that means, and now some of them are opposing the airport's necessary expansion.

I'm sure our King County Commissioners will approve the airport's growth plan and i urge our Mercer Island City Council to do the same and approve the JCC amendment.

Thank you

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