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January 31, 2021

Mr. Jim Ferrell, Mayor
City of Federal Way
33325 8th Ave. South
Federal Way, WA 98003
E: Jim.Ferrell@cityoffederalway.com

Colonel Alexander Bullock, Seattle district commander
U.S Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755
E: alexander.l.bullock@usace.army.mil

Dear Mayor Ferrell and Colonel Bullock:

We are writing you today about our concerns about the large-scale development proposed for the Weyerhaeuser International Campus. As the national arm of Docomomo in the United States with chapters across the country and the world, we have been monitoring this project through the efforts of our chapter Docomomo US/WEWA who is already a consulting party in the Section 106 process.

Over the course of the last thirteen months, Docomomo US has led a national campaign to examine and highlight buildings, landscape and design, like the Weyerhaeuser Campus that were completed in the 1970s. These sites as you may know are now eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, which makes their research and understanding of paramount concern. Unlike the 1950s or the 1960s, architecture of this period was incredibly diverse with a high level of technological experimentation, social considerations and notably a considerable emphasis on architecture's relationship to the environment and the setting of sites.

Corporate campuses, unlike residential development, civic or institutional buildings or sites, are almost all products of the mid-twentieth century and Docomomo US spends a considerable amount of time focused on their research and understanding. Sites like the General Motors Technical Center in Michigan or Bell Labs in New Jersey, both by Eero Saarinen, are two similar historic corporate campuses where the building(s) and the landscape are of one total design. The link between the building and landscape at the Weyerhaeuser campus, like these examples is critical. And yet, when you compare the formal


landscapes of those earlier examples to the Weyerhaeuser campus, with its sensitive integration between the building and site, meticulously sculpted woodlands, designed forest edges, and the network of trails, it reinforces our belief that the Weyerhaeuser campus is of national significance at a level rivaling or exceeding its earlier peers. The Weyerhaeuser campus distinctively blends the values and aesthetics of the Modern Movement with the new design aesthetic of 1960s historic preservation and environmental movements. Our research of corporate campuses has yet to reveal another site from this period that more successfully reflects the blending of these movements and the advancement of design thinking than the Weyerhaeuser International campus.

While we understand the Section 106 participants are wrestling with mitigation strategies, we wanted to share our thoughts and research on 1970s architecture, corporate campuses and the national significance of the Weyerhaeuser campus. Mitigating the negative impacts on such historic campus is critical and we encourage you and our peers to tread carefully and develop creative ways to protect the historic core, historic viewsheds and the splendor of this incredible corporate campus.

Sincerely,



Todd Grover
Vice President Advocacy
Docomomo US



Liz Waytkus
Executive Director
Docomomo US

cc: Sen. Patty Murray; Sen. Maria Cantwell; Rep. Adam Smith; Gov. Jay Inslee; Dow Constantine, King County; Charles Birnbaum, The Cultural Landscape Foundation; Chris Moore, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation; Eugenia Woo, Docomomo US/WEWA; Barbara McMichael, SoCoCulture; Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer, King County; State Sen. Claire Wilson; State Rep. Jesse Johnson; State Rep. Jamila Taylor; City Council Pres. Susan Honda, Federal Way; Jaime Loichinger, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; Bill Sterud, Puyallup Tribe of Indians; Lori Sechrist, Save Weyerhaeuser Campus; Michelle Connor, Forterra; Diana Noble Gulliford, Historical Society of Federal Way.