

State Capitol Committee, Washington State, and Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee

January 21, 2022 via email

Members of the State Capitol Committee and the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee:

The State of Washington capitol campus is one of the most extensive and intact Olmsted-designed capitol landscapes in the nation. It is a point of pride as we enter the bi-centennial year of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth and fitting that as Olmsted 200 is being celebrated across the country that the State of Washington is acknowledging the importance of its own state capitol's Olmsted legacy. (*The attached brochure provides an overview of that legacy.*)

The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks and the National Association for Olmsted Parks are pleased that the recommendation for the Preferred Alternative A for the Pritchard Building and Opportunity Site #5 has been chosen with an understanding of the important role of the Olmsted landscape setting for the Capitol buildings.

As the design moves forward, we want to emphasize the importance of setting the extension of the Pritchard building within a landscape to maximize the reintroduction of the richly-layered native landscape backdrop for the historic core capitol buildings. To this end we urge that every effort should be made to re-evaluate the surface parking requirements for both the Pritchard and Newhouse projects.

Thank you to the excellent team of DES staff and designers who have brought us to this point - a process which has been engaging and collaborative with all parties. We appreciate the ability to participate in the process of honoring the historic significance of the capitol campus of the State of Washington

Sincerely,
Anne Knight
Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks
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