CITY OF BATTLE GROUND
RESOLUTION NO. 23-08

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS AT THE LARCH CORRECTIONS CENTER

WHEREAS, Larch Corrections Center (LCC) is slated to be closed by the Department of Corrections in October, 2023; and

WHEREAS, LCC is the only correction facility in Clark county, WA the state's fifth largest county. The closure would cause family members to travel further for visitation causing undue stress and increased costs; and

WHEREAS, LCC provides valuable education, retraining opportunities and community partnerships for inmates that reduce the recidivism rate of the inmates and provides valuable service to our community; and

WHEREAS, many of the employees of LCC live in, or near Battle Ground, and contribute to it's economic viability; and

WHEREAS, LCC plays a vital role in trail maintenance and vegetation control on area recreation lands; and

WHEREAS, specifically, LCC trains inmates in critical wildfire prevention and wildfire fighting skills; and

WHEREAS, the eastern portion of Clark County near Battle Ground consists primarily of vast woodlands susceptible to wildfire that is very challenging to fight; and

WHEREAS, the same portion of the county has severely burned several times over the past 125 years, including the Yacolt Burn in 1902 which burned 238,920 acres (967 km^2) of timber, and most recently the Nakia Fire last summer that resulted in the evacuation of hundreds of households; and

WHEREAS, the growing population in Clark County has pushed housing developments further into said woodlands; and

WHEREAS, LCC inmates provide fast-acting and critical fire fighting triage for this area; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Battle Ground as follows:

1. The City Council of the City of Battle Ground, WA recognizes the vital role that LCC plays in keeping this community safe from wildland fires and aids in trail maintenance and

development of area recreational lands. The City Council strongly urges the Department of Corrections to reverse the decision to close Larch Correctional facility.

2. The Clerk of the City of Battle Ground is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to the offices of the Washington State Department of Commerce, the Governor, and such other offices as applicable.

3. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption by City Council.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL NAD APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND IN AN OPEN MEETING THIS 7th DAY OF AUGUST, 2023.

CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON

By:_____
Philip Johnson, Mayor

Attest:

By:_____
Elizabeth Halili, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

By:_____
Kirk Ehlis, City Attorney