



**04/21/2026**

**Dear Representative Thai:**

On behalf of the City of Mercer Island City Council, I would like to extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude for your vote in support of the \$1 million dollars in state grant funding for the Mercer Island Community and Event Center HVAC Replacement Project in Washington state's Capital Budget.

This grant will be used to fund a portion of the replacement of a critical building system for a beloved community asset. This system replacement should result not only in lower ongoing energy costs and improved comfort for building users, but it is also expected to decrease ongoing maintenance costs. As one of the City's largest and most used facilities, electrifying the HVAC system will also result in a significant reduction in municipal greenhouse gas emissions. In 2024, the natural gas usage for the MICEC alone accounted for 5% of the City's municipal greenhouse gas emissions.

The Mercer Island Community Center is also the interim location for the City's Emergency Operations Center, and the functionality of core building systems is essential for emergency response operations.

The community center is the home of community events, a gym, athletic courts, senior and youth recreation and health programming, the City's Council Chambers, and used as the City's shelter during emergencies (Bomb cyclones and wind events, cooling and warming shelter, etc.). In many ways this facility is the center of the Mercer Island community.

Thank you for your crucial work in securing this significant investment in our community and for your ongoing partnership in promoting the safety and wellbeing of Islanders.

Sincerely,

**David Rosenbaum, Mayor**