



# City of Tenino

149 Hodgden St. S  
PO Box 4019  
Tenino, WA 98589  
(360) 264-2368  
Fax (360) 264-5772

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

To: The Honorable Members of the Washington State Legislature Cc: Senator Jim McCune;  
Representative Andrew Barkis; Representative Matt Marshall

Re: Capital Budget Support for Wolf Haven International – Treehouse Learning Center

Dear Members of the Legislature,

As Mayor of the City of Tenino, I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for Wolf Haven International's funding request to construct their new Treehouse Learning Center.

Wolf Haven has long been one of Tenino's most vital partners and our premier international attraction. For over 40 years, they have brought visitors from around the world to our corner of the 2nd Legislative District. The Treehouse Learning Center project represents a bold, innovative solution that will transform their capacity to serve students and tourists alike.

From the City's perspective, this project delivers three critical benefits:

1. **Year-Round Economic Impact:** Currently, weather limits Wolf Haven's ability to host groups. The new ADA-compliant, all-season Treehouse will allow for year-round operations, increasing visitor traffic to Tenino's downtown businesses during the "shoulder season" months.
2. **Increased Capacity:** The project is projected to increase educational capacity by 20–40%. This means more students from Tenino and regional school districts will have access to high-quality, hands-on science and conservation education right in their backyard.
3. **Inclusivity:** The design features a 250-foot ADA-compliant ramp, ensuring that the unique experience of the forest canopy and wolf sanctuary is accessible to visitors of all mobility levels—a significant upgrade for our community's inclusivity.

Wolf Haven is a sanctuary of international standing, but they are also a cornerstone of Tenino's local identity. This investment will secure their future as a leader in conservation education while bolstering our local economy.

I urge you to fully fund this Capital Budget request. It is a "shovel-ready" opportunity to build a legacy asset for the 2nd District.

Sincerely,

David Watterson Mayor, City of Tenino

Elaine Klamm – Council Member

Linda Gotovac – Council Member

Edam Carney – Council Member

Jeff Eisel – Council Member

Tianne Curtiss – Council Member