

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Commissioner Peter Goldmark Endorses Democrat Dave Upthegrove in Lands Commissioner Race

The current King County Council Chair also announced endorsements from 15 other current and former local and regional elected officials

Des Moines – Former Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark, who served two terms in the statewide office from 2009 to 2017, today endorsed King County Council Chair Dave Upthegrove for the office. The crowded, open seat Lands Commissioner race is hotly contested, and Goldmark’s support, along with that of more than a dozen respected local officials, is a boost to Upthegrove’s campaign.

"Throughout his career in public service, Dave Upthegrove has been an environmental champion. His deep experience and track record of accomplishments on conservation issues is head and shoulders above the other candidates in the crowded race for Commissioner of Public Lands. That is why I am proud to offer my endorsement and support to Dave and his campaign," Goldmark said. "In this era of climate threat, a strong and motivated environmental leader is needed now more than ever at the Department of Natural Resources, and Dave has creative policy ideas and the political and managerial skills to be that sort of transformational leader."

Upthegrove also announced he has been endorsed by 15 other local current and former elected officials across the state:

- Greg Nance, State Representative 23rd District
- Sarah Perry, King County Council
- Fred Fellman, Port of Seattle Commissioner
- Nancy Backus, Auburn Mayor
- Senayet Negusse, SeaTac Deputy Mayor
- Eric Pickins, Sequim School Board President
- Thomas French, Lake Forest Park Mayor

- Sue Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park Mayor
- Traci Buxton, Des Moines Mayor
- Jeff Coughlin, Bremerton City Council President
- Lorri Bodi, Lake Forest Park City Council President
- Kate Baldwin, Auburn City Councilmember
- Marli Larimer, Kent City Councilmember
- Harry Steinmetz, Des Moines City Councilmember
- Phyllis Gutiérrez-Kenney, former State Representative

“The endorsement from former Lands Commissioner Goldmark is an honor, and the growing and diverse coalition of support for my campaign is the latest indication that we are well positioned to make it through the primary and win in November,” Upthegrove said.

He added, “I’m particularly proud of the breadth of my elected endorsements. I have support not only from young rising progressives like King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay and Port Commissioner Hamdi Mohamed, but also established Democrats like Congressman Adam Smith and State Auditor Pat McCarthy. Now, along with Peter Goldmark, other environmental champions supporting my campaign include House Majority Leader Joe Fitzgibbon, Pierce County Council Chair Ryan Melo, and King County Executive Dow Constantine.”

Along with the growing list of endorsements, Upthegrove has built the strongest campaign in the race. He has raised more than any other candidate, and with more than \$265,000 in the bank has by far the most cash on hand. With former Republican Congresswoman Jaime Herrera-Beutler also posting strong fundraising numbers, Democrats will need to unite behind a strong, well resourced candidate in order to retain the office.

For more on Dave’s background, qualifications, and agenda for the Department of Natural Resources, visit his campaign website at www.upthegrove.org.

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Dave Upthegrove is the most environmentally experienced candidate in the race. A former Washington Conservation Voters’ Legislator of the Year, he previously chaired the House Select Committee on Puget Sound, helping to create the Puget Sound Partnership. Later he chaired the House Environment Committee, and helped to lead the Blue-Green Alliance in the legislature that brought together labor and environmental leaders around a shared policy agenda.