



## Washington State Legislature

August 29, 2018

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Governor  
State of Washington  
P.O. Box  
Olympia 98504

Dear Governor Inslee,

The 27<sup>th</sup> district delegation of legislators enthusiastically endorses the future plans of public radio station KNKX which include their move to downtown Tacoma. We join in the request to include \$800,000 in your 2019-2020 biennial Capital budget to support this move and secure the future of this valuable public radio channel in the South Sound.

KNKX 88.5 FM (Previously KPLU) has served the Northwest for 50+ years through their jazz, blues, and local and national news. Now, as they look to the future, they have plans to increase their service, expand the diversity of the voices and stories heard on the station, and enhance their technology for a changing world.

Our support of KNKX's expansion is an acknowledgment of the important role independent, local journalism plays in our democracy and region. KNKX brings us national and international news from NPR, and provides a Northwest perspective from a team of local journalists. Covering subjects at the heart of our current civil discourse – education, homelessness, immigration, juvenile justice, and much more – KNKX provides the information the community needs to make informed opinions.

With its network of eleven translators and transmitters, KNKX reaches listeners all across Western WA including Bellingham, Port Angeles, Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, Longview, Sedro-Woolley, Aberdeen and Chehalis.

KNKX is also committed to presenting the best in jazz and blues, and highlights the many talented artists and high school bands in the Northwest. The KNKX School of Jazz program pairs professional jazz musicians with middle and high school bands.

KNKX will join Tacoma's thriving arts scene and will enhance the quality of life for all Tacomans. The new home will be located downtown in the Theater District, home of the Farmer's Market, a beautiful park, the Pantages Theater, and the Theater on the Square.

Through this new home, KNKX will:

- Connect with the community, opening their doors for live radio experiences.
- Provide free jazz and blues concerts in the park across the street and in venues around town.
- Partner with organizations like the Broadway Center to convene forums on important issues.
- Benefit Tacoma schools and serve more students through internships, music education and storytelling training programs.

The 27<sup>th</sup> District Legislators endorse KNKX's future plans and new home because it will expand the role of journalism, music and music education in our community. Please contact us if further information is needed.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jeannie Darneille  
State Senator  
27<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Jake Fey  
State Representative  
27<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Laurie Jinkins  
State Representative  
27<sup>th</sup> Legislative District