



Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council, AFL-CIO

2800 First Avenue, Suite 206 • Seattle, Washington 98121

Phone: (206) 441-8510 • Fax: (206) 441-7103 • E-mail: office@mlkclc.org

April 4, 2017

600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 2
PO Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

Dear Council President Harrell and Councilmembers,

The Martin Luther King Labor Council opposes the proposed Burke Gilman Trail extension on Shilshole Ave in Ballard. We would like to see the trail instead be extended along Leary and Market, then on to the Ballard Locks and Golden Gardens.

Our goal is to protect the thousands of jobs in the Ballard/Interbay industrial area. We represent several unions with workers whose jobs are on Shilshole Ave. When I recently drove the proposed trail route along Shilshole I could not believe how counter-intuitive the sighting was. Shilshole is a major industrial thoroughfare, and putting a recreational trail in the middle of it seems unwise. It makes more sense to keep trail users on safer, more retail friendly, less industrial streets. If the trail was on Market, people could stop for a coffee and enjoy the vibrant small business scene. On Shilshole there's no point of interest. You can't even see the water, there is no recreational case to have it there.

Ballard is an incredibly rare neighborhood because it has its own economy. Most of the fish eaten in North America comes from the Ballard fishing fleet, how many neighborhoods can say that? Please help us protect this gem of a neighborhood from becoming a boring, homogenous, parody of itself. Help us save our good union jobs by keeping Shilshole Ave alive.

Sincerely,

Nicole Grant
Executive Secretary

opeiu8/afl-cio

Dale Bright, President • Stefan Moritz, Vice President • Nicole Grant, Executive Secretary

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS