

Dear Mr Machen,

I am writing in support of Madrona School's proposed campus at Lowery Farm. We recently moved to the island from San Francisco. We could have moved to a suburb, but we love the rural feel here and wanted our children to enjoy and benefit from that, with access to a city nearby. One of the major pieces of our decision was that there was a Waldorf school on the island. While we are homeschooling at present, we engage regularly with the community of Madrona school, for instance we recently attended a fall festival at Lowery farm. Our only hesitation is that their current location features very little outdoor space for the children: exactly what their new campus promises.

What an incredible gift to children: the possibility of a school on a farm, the possibility of being in real outdoor space, doing real outdoor work. This is a rarity. We have toured many school campuses, in cities and in towns, from Maine to Colorado to Northern California. While I appreciate that there may be concerns about traffic, I cannot fathom why there would be resistance to a small school with a community of environmentally minded parents and educators committed to nature as a component of their children's lives. We have never seen a sprawling Waldorf school yet: we have seen, and I can well imagine Madrona will follow in these footsteps: compact warm wood architecture, cozy buildings, and plenty of outdoor space that doesn't look like a blacktop, but looks natural and beautiful. In short, I strongly suspect Madrona will be an aesthetically beautiful neighbor, and likely a thoughtful one. And the farm and rural "feel" of the land would be preserved. What a blessing! Better than another subdivision, surely. Do we not owe this to children? That there are small patches left where pumpkins are grown and cedars sway in the breeze, and one can watch the clouds pass overhead? Are these not the riches of non-urban life? Do we not need stewards of the land to make sure these moments can still happen?

We live on Ellingsen Road, not too far away from the proposed campus. We would be delighted to see them as neighbors. I hope you will agree.

Respectfully yours,

Shoshanna Kirk

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