

GARY LOCKE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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April 5, 2004

Richard B. Counts, MD
President
Puget Sound Blood Center
921 Terry Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-1256

Dear Dr. Counts:

I am pleased to endorse the Puget Sound Blood Center's project to establish a new blood donor center in Vancouver, Washington. The scheduled opening of this much-needed center is September 2004.

I believe that donating blood is one of the most profound acts of kindness a human being can perform. I have been a regular blood donor for some time and have also entered into the National Marrow Donor Program Registry. As governor, I was pleased to sign Executive Order 02-01 to permit state employees to take paid leave to donate blood and bone marrow, and I have declared May "Blood, Bone Marrow, Organ, and Tissue Donation Month." Ensuring continued availability of these vital programs to all that need them, is our responsibility.

Completion of a new blood center in Vancouver would allow the current and future needs of the region to be met. This year Puget Sound Blood Center is celebrating sixty years of providing a safe and sufficient blood supply to Western Washington, and it is currently the sole provider of blood services to Clark and Cowlitz Counties. Clearly, it is the organization with the experience and established community relationship to make this project happen.

Please accept my best wishes for success with this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Locke".

Gary Locke
Governor

