



King County

Reagan Dunn

Councilmember, District 9

Metropolitan King County Council

October 16, 2013

The Honorable
Dave Reichert
United States House of Representatives
1127 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Reichert:

As a member of the Metropolitan King County Council, I represent nearly a quarter of a million residents of King County. The majority of constituents living in my district who have contacted me during the last few weeks have made it clear that they want the partial federal government shut down to end. I am writing today urging you to act on the bipartisan agreement announced this morning by the U.S. Senate.

The government shutdown has hurt King County with furloughs and cuts to important services. While the first weeks of the shutdown have not significantly hurt King County residents to date, very soon my constituents will begin to feel the impacts of this shutdown as services provided by the county that are funded through the Federal government begin to suffer.

Last week, King County Executive Dow Constantine announced that more than 80 King County Public Health workers who administer food assistance to women, infants, and children through the program known as WIC (Women, Infants and Children) have received 45-day layoff notices as a result of the current partial federal government shutdown.

The WIC program provides vouchers for nutritious foods and infant formula, health screenings, nutrition and health education, and breastfeeding support. Last month, through the Seattle - King County Public Health Clinic in Renton in my district, WIC served 3,059 clients. After October 31, they and the thousands of children served by the WIC program in King County will not receive food and formula vouchers or any other WIC service. Unfortunately, King County cannot afford to pay for food and formula for infants and children without the Federal government.

Our country needs a long-term vision, a thoughtful plan, and compromise—not a shutdown that harms the citizens—including children—of King County that we represent. This shutdown has done nothing but make my constituents even more frustrated with their Federal government.

I believe it is time for Congress to vote on a budget bill that gets the government back to work providing the services paid for by the hard-working taxpayers in my district and across the country. This is why I'm urging you to carefully consider and act on the bi-partisan agreement announced by the U.S. Senate earlier today.

I appreciate that both members of Congress that represent King County District 9 have publically voiced their willingness to vote for measures that will bring this partial shutdown to an end. The developments

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today in Washington D.C. are positive steps in ending this gridlock. The purpose of this letter is to communicate to you what I'm hearing on a local level and provide context for you on the impacts of this partial shutdown will soon have on our mutual constituents while you work towards a solution.

Thank you for your work on behalf of King County and the great State of Washington.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Reagan Dunn", with a stylized, flowing script.

Reagan Dunn
King County Councilmember – District Nine