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To: **Archbishop of Seattle:**

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Copies: Office of the Mayor of Seattle

Re: Proposal for a new Shared Stadium in Seattle for Private Schools & Universities

Seattle's private schools and Seattle U. share a common problem: the lack of a suitable stadium for athletic and other events. And as you know, Seattle Public Schools' Memorial Stadium is slated for eventual removal, which will compound the difficulties and expense in finding venues.

There is an obvious solution to the problem: Seattle's private schools (all those listed above or any combination of some of those schools) should create a shared stadium and athletic facility.

Conceivably it could be a lighted football and soccer field with running track, grandstand, and ancillary facilities. Or it could be a more extensive complex to include baseball and other athletic fields. It would make it possible for the schools to host more evening events with the benefit of attracting more parents, alumni, fans, and potential donors.

Now is the ideal time to do it. Property values are at a low ebb and the construction industry still has not fully recovered from the recession. Industrial and commercial land is more available now than in the past or in the future. It would be less costly to do it now than at any other time.

There are many locations in Seattle that would be appropriate for such an endeavor. Any of the major commercial real estate companies could offer many solutions. Some possibilities that come to mind are a number of unused or underutilized properties in industrial zones on both sides of I-5 in the Duwamish Basin (perhaps including recently surplused Boeing property), or at the recently closed Fort Lawton in Discovery Park, or a number of unused or underutilized properties in industrial and commercial zones near and east of Aurora north of 115th, or in the Interbay area.

Why do I make this suggestion?

1. It would be a valuable investment for all of the participating schools, and now is by far the best time to do it.
2. Bishop Blanchet High School has proposed lighting their own field, but (a) at best it would serve only a very few of the various schools' many needs and (b) it is the wrong project in the wrong place. Its site is constricted making expansion difficult. Its parking and traffic are problematic. It would have serious detrimental impacts on the residential neighborhood. The neighborhood is firmly opposed to it (over 80 comments in opposition have been received by the city) and the proposal has heightened a feeling of animosity between the school and its neighbors.
3. On May 1 the city's land use plans examiners posted additional and difficult comments for the applicant to respond to. There may be a much greater than 50/50 chance of the neighborhood succeeding in blocking the issuance of any city permit for it.
4. Although we neighbors are fighting hard against Bishop Blanchet High School's proposal, we rue being opponents of the school. We would much prefer actively contributing positive energy to make things happen. We would like to help, not hinder. We feel this would be an excellent example of cooperation for the younger generation, your students.

The above proposal would be an exciting opportunity for all of your schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Leland (Lee) Bruch