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Governor Appoints Mercer Island Resident to State Board

OLYMPIA – Governor Gary Locke has appointed long-time Mercer Island resident Bill Chapman to the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, a board that issues grants for recreation and conservation projects throughout the state.

Chapman is a partner with the Seattle law firm of Preston Gates Ellis, where he handles land use and environmental compliance issues for a wide variety of private, corporate and government clients in Washington and other states. Chapman graduated from Harvard University in environmental engineering sciences and received his law degree from the University of Virginia.

“We are thrilled to welcome Bill to the interagency committee,” said Val Ogden, of Vancouver, who is the committee’s chair. “Because of his understanding of land use issues and involvement in many of the innovative environmental organizations in Washington, Bill brings a valuable perspective to our work.”

Chapman is a founding board member and President of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, a nonprofit organization created in 1990 by a group of concerned citizens to publicize the need to save some of the nearby forests and open spaces along Interstate 90 from Snoqualmie Pass to Seattle. He also is a founding board member and past president of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, a nonprofit organization that raises money for grants to local communities to acquire land for outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat protection.

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Chapman currently serves as chairman of the Mercer Island Planning Commission and finds time to lead the Mercer Island Basketball Booster Club, which supports youth basketball programs. He serves on several other nonprofit boards, and enjoy the outdoors by hiking and climbing.

The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation was formed in 1964 by a citizen initiative. The committee helps finance recreation and conservation projects throughout the state by giving grants to local communities and others for parks, trails, beaches, boating and recreational facilities, wildlife habitat and natural areas. The committee is composed of five citizens appointed by the governor and three state agency directors.

“Bill’s clients know him as a practical problem-solver,” said Preston’s managing partner Gerry Johnson. “Preston Gates is pleased to see time and energy contributed to these important issues.”

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