

SENATE RESOLUTION

8674

By Senators Chase, Fraser, and Kohl-Welles

1 WHEREAS, As a young mother, Nancy Ruth Malmgren devoted much of
2 her attention to education in Seattle's public schools, including
3 concern that racial and ethnic minorities should be accorded equal
4 opportunity in education, and in adult life as well; and

5 WHEREAS, Nancy became a tireless advocate for overcoming the *de*
6 *facto* segregation of Seattle schools that was leaving many African-
7 American students behind; and

8 WHEREAS, Because *de facto* segregation of public schools tends to
9 be a product of racially segregated neighborhoods, Nancy worked to
10 eliminate discrimination in the sale or rental of housing, eventually
11 resulting in a stronger Office for Civil Rights in Seattle; and

12 WHEREAS, When Seattle's school administrators decided to ease
13 their path toward desegregation by creating elected "Citizens School
14 Advisory Councils," Nancy ran for a seat on the advisory council for
15 the Ingraham High School area, making no secret of her convictions,
16 and was soundly defeated, but remained devoted to her guiding
17 principles; and

18 WHEREAS, During this same period, Nancy turned her attention to a
19 broad menu of environmental matters, organizing the "Carkeek
20 Watershed Community Action Project," which, with the able assistance
21 of her husband, Les, recruited volunteer "beach stewards" and "salmon
22 stewards" for important projects at Carkeek Park; and

1 WHEREAS, Now, every November, the salmon stewards who Nancy
2 and the Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project put in motion
3 deploy around Piper's Creek and point out the return of
4 previously imprinted chum and other salmon to park visitors—all
5 as part of a lesson in nature and conservation; and

6 WHEREAS, Recognizing that the future of her salmon project
7 lay in the hands of serial younger generations, Nancy blended
8 her past and present passions by promoting and facilitating a
9 "Salmon in the Schools" program that has alerted countless
10 schoolchildren to the life cycle of salmon, and what watershed
11 residents can do to protect that precious resource; and

12 WHEREAS, In that vein, Nancy organized and promoted annual
13 Earth Day events for many years at Carkeek Park, marking storm
14 drains "Drains into Puget Sound," placing "Pesticide-Free Zone"
15 signs in the yards of watershed homeowners who made the
16 appropriate commitments, and highlighting the importance of
17 scooping up pet waste beyond the cleanliness of shoes; and

18 WHEREAS, Nancy never forgot the importance of the salmon
19 cycle to the Native Americans who were here before us and
20 managed that resource so carefully and well, and made a point of
21 attempting to include their descendants in Earth Day observances
22 and on other occasions; and

23 WHEREAS, When Seattle's Department of Parks and Recreation
24 created a network of "Advisory Councils" for the City's major
25 parks, Nancy was an obvious choice to be a charter member of the
26 Carkeek Park Advisory Council, where she remained a vital
27 resource at least through 2014; and

28 WHEREAS, As a member of the Council, Nancy suggested that a
29 small, long-abandoned structure near the entrance to Carkeek
30 Park be converted into a dedicated Environmental Learning
31 Center, not just to illuminate the "natural history" of the
32 Park, its forests, creeks, and wildlife, but as a demonstration
33 project for steps Seattle residents could take in their own
34 homes toward broader environmental preservation; and

35 WHEREAS, Nancy's idea ultimately prevailed, including solar
36 panels to power the building, as well as low-flow toilets, and
37 was then expanded to encompass the very construction of the new

1 Environmental Learning Center, in reusing some of the original
2 structure's building materials, rather than have them shipped
3 off to a landfill; and

4 WHEREAS, Over a period of months, grants were sought;
5 paperwork filled out in serial meetings at Nancy's home; "sweat
6 equity" pledged and delivered; an architect hired; and a
7 contractor engaged, resulting in an Environmental Learning
8 Center, bearing Nancy's name, certified as the first structure
9 in Seattle to attain "Gold" certification under the "LEED"
10 program administered by the U.S. Green Building Council;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
12 Senate honor Nancy Ruth Malmgren for her tireless work and
13 advocacy to make the Seattle community a better place for all.

14 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
15 do hereby certify that this is a true and
16 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8674,
17 adopted by the Senate
18 April 22, 2015

19 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
20 Secretary of the Senate