Skagit County Fire District #6 Letter to the Editor July 27, 2023

Dear Editor,

Skagit County Fire District No. 6 serves 6,800 residents over 27 square miles west of Burlington in unincorporated Skagit County. The Board of Fire Commissioners recently approved a resolution to place a fire levy lid lift on the November general election ballot.

This decision was not made lightly and involved a lengthy public process. Call volumes have increased 102% since 2016. Our fire district requires additional firefighters and more space at the fire station so they can respond 24-hours a day. Firefighter protective equipment (oxygen tanks and bunker gear) needs to be replaced as well as one ambulance.

We could finance these projects, but our community said no. They want us to pay as we go compared to borrowing money which would cost taxpayers more due to interest payments.

We are very grateful to those who turned out to share their opinions during this public process. More information can be found at <u>www.skagitfire6.com</u>.

Thank you for supporting our local fire district. Our mission is to serve you.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Pike Commissioner Smoots Commissioner Whalen