

## **North Capitol Hill**

WSDOT's pending request to the City of Seattle for a 7-year noise variance for SR-520 construction should be denied.

WSDOT wants permission to create noise within the city limits every weekend, every holiday and every night, all night, at levels up to 80 decibels for the next 7 years. (The Federal criteria for placement of a noise wall is 65 decibels; for acceptable residential nighttime noise it is 45 decibels.)

If granted, WSDOT's current request will cause harm to hundreds of neighbors, who will be unable to open their windows for sleep or ventilation, as well as damage to property values, which will obviously drop. And most important, if granted, this variance will permit noise about 17 times the level that studies by the World Health Organization have shown to cause health problems, including heart attacks and deaths.

If any noise variances must be granted, they should be for only a matter of a few months and should empower the city to shut down construction immediately if permitted noise levels are exceeded. Our neighborhoods should not have their health and home life taken away by the state.

Sincerely,

**Michelle Kimihira, President**

**North Capitol Hill Neighborhood Association**