



August 26th, 2022

Washington Policy Center
PO Box 3643
Seattle, WA 98124-3643

Dear Michael Gallagher, Paul Guppy and David Boze
Cc: Mark Pinkowski, Kevin Bouchey

The Washington Senate Freedom Caucus would like to extend a big thank you for selecting Senator Doug Ericksen as the Washington Policy Center's Champion of Freedom. Senator Ericksen was not only an outstanding father, legislator, and friend, but also the founder of the Senate Freedom Caucus. He believed in and defended our state and federal constitution, was a zealous advocate for free market principles, and was undoubtedly one of the quickest minds to ever serve in the Senate. Doug was a principled man in both his personal and private life, and if he were here today, would still be fighting for and living by those same principles.

As this next legislative session looms, a big hole is left by the passing of our dear friend. Two sessions without him continues to feel so wrong for many of us. Doug's ability to strip an argument to its core and then translate it to layman's terms was unmatched. Whenever our side of the aisle needed someone to debate on short notice, Senator Ericksen stepped up and displayed his oratory skills. One of our favorites is when the Seattle City Council supported breaching the lower Snake River dams, and Senator Ericksen responded with a bill to examine breaching the Seattle City Light dams. So many of us have varying stories about his rhetorical abilities.

The freedom caucus owes its beginnings and best moments to Doug. No person is more deserving than Senator Ericksen for this prestigious award, so again, thank you from all the undersigned Senators.

Handwritten signature of Mike Padden in black ink.

Senator Mike Padden
Freedom Caucus
4th Legislative district

Handwritten signature of Jeff Wilson in black ink.

Senator Jeff Wilson
Freedom Caucus
19th Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Phil Fortunato in black ink.

Senator Phil Fortunato
Freedom Caucus
31st Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Jim McCune in black ink.

Senator Jim McCune
Freedom Caucus
2nd Legislative District