

The Evergreen State College

January 27, 1982

Shoalwater Bay Tribal Council
Shoalwater Reservation
P.O. Box 579
Tokeland, WA 98590

Dear Tribal Council and Members:

The Native American Studies Specialty Program at The Evergreen State College (a cultural program designed to aid Native Americans attending college), desires to build a gathering place for Native Americans on the Evergreen State College campus where the water meets the land. It is the wishes of the Native Americans at Evergreen, and faculty and students, that the Longhouse gathering place be built in the tradition of the Northwest Longhouse and serve as a center for Native Americans, particularly for the enrichment of Native American education, art, and culture. It is also the wishes of the Native American Studies members involved in the planning that the center be used as a gathering place for Native American Nations and Tribal Councils, as well as a place for large meeting groups involved in Indian affairs. The Longhouse would serve as a place of hospitality where non-Indians and Indian people would be educated about cultural as well as the contemporary concerns of Native Americans. The Longhouse Advisory Committee feels that The Evergreen State College campus is an especially good meeting place for Native American Nations and Tribal Councils of the Pacific Northwest because of its close vicinity to the State Capitol in Olympia. Finally, it is the wishes of the Native American Studies Specialty Program that the center can serve as a place where Native American students enrolled at Evergreen will feel at home and that the center will attract more Native Americans to attend college at Evergreen.

The idea for the Longhouse gathering place has not been officially accepted by the College Board for a number of reasons. Two very important reasons are that first, the Board of Trustees wishes to know how much support the project has from the Indian Nations of Washington State and second, the board wishes to know specific ideas about the structure and uses of the building. Since the Longhouse gathering place has been initially planned to aid Native Americans, and serve as a meeting place for Tribes of the Northwest, the Longhouse advisory committee feels that it needs to ask all the Tribes throughout the State for their support and also for their ideas concerning the building's structure and uses. Does the tribal council think that such a place would prove useful to Native Americans? What would the councils and the people want in such a Longhouse gathering place and what wouldn't they want? What should be some of

the uses, and what should the structure look like? We would appreciate hearing from you about what your thoughts and ideas are about such a gathering place and if you would permit it, we would also like to personally visit your area and talk to you about planning development and your wishes about how to make the gathering place best suit Native American needs. We look forward to hearing from you about what you think of this project and whether or not you would welcome an information group to come and talk with you to answer any of your questions and to respond to your ideas. We need all the support and help that we can get. Please address your responses to: Native American Studies, Longhouse Advisory Committee, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington 98505.

Respectfully,

Mel Moon, Jr.
Longhouse Advisory Coordinator

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