

MARTHA KONGSGAARD

April 30, 2013

Dear members of the Mountaineers Foundation grant selection committee:

Pacific Biodiversity Institute has applied to the Mountaineers Foundation for funding. I encourage you to support their efforts to monitor harbor porpoise in the Puget Sound.

As the chair of the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council, I am deeply involved with the Puget Sound clean-up effort. I have found that monitoring is sorely lacking and difficult to fund, despite being central to our ability to assess the big picture.

We hope that our harbor porpoise population is recovering to healthy levels, but we will not know if they are, and we cannot guess why, until a serious monitoring effort is underway. These mammals may be the most appropriate indicator species to track our cleanup efforts. Puget Sound Partnership will anxiously await the preliminary results from this important work.

That PBI has taken it upon themselves to conduct research of this sort is both rare and exciting. They are a smart and technically savvy organization, with the passion to get this work underway.

The Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation has recently awarded PBI with a multi-year grant to assist them in their effort. Funding from the Mountaineers Foundation would be very beneficial in carrying this research project forward in the near term.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Best,
Martha Kongsgaard

President, Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation
Chair, Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council