



**Washington State Auditor**  
**Brian Sonntag**

November 23, 2011

Mayor and Council Members  
City of Lake Stevens  
1812 Main Street  
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I would like to congratulate you on the City of Lake Stevens' commitment to accountability as demonstrated by 11 consecutive audits without findings. This significant accomplishment shows the City's dedication to sound financial operations and reporting.

We appreciate City management's constructive responses to our recommendations and the timely improvements that have been made in the past. Often the City responds to our recommendations prior to completion of the audit. The City has also taken positive steps over the years to protect public dollars by assessing risks related to waste, misappropriation and abuse and taking actions to prevent or detect such issues in a timely manner.

A critical component of the City's operations is its staff. We appreciate the close working relationship we have with City officials. The entire City staff has consistently expressed sincere interest in the results of our audit work and has been cooperative and friendly throughout the audit process.

I view our partnership as a model for relationships with other entities. I look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
STATE AUDITOR

