



Kelso City Council

David Futcher, Mayor



203 S. Pacific Avenue, PO Box 819 Kelso, WA 98626

February 29, 2016

Kelso Community Council
5 Eschiehaugh
Kelso
TD5 7SJ
Scottish Borders

Dear Provost Bassett,

Thank you for your letter of introduction. Our City Council enjoyed learning about Kelso, Scottish Borders' history and how your community thrives today. We were honored to receive Mr. Sandy Devers on Kelso's behalf at City Hall last year and discuss the formalization of relations between our communities.

Kelso, Washington is located on Interstate 5, at the confluence of the Cowlitz, Coweeman, and Columbia Rivers. We lie 48 miles north of Portland, Oregon, 125 miles south of Seattle, and 80 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. Kelso has about 12,000 residents and serves as the seat of government for Cowlitz County. Our western border is shared with the City of Longview, and our immediate urban area is roughly 60,000 in population. The rivers and surrounding wooded hillsides create a scenic backdrop that softens our working class roots.

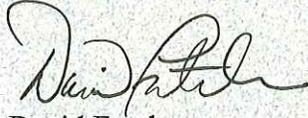
Although we did not officially claim the name of "the new town of Kelso, Washington Territory" until 1884, we were founded in 1847 by the Scottish surveyor, Peter Crawford, who named the community after his hometown of Kelso.

Kelso operates under a "council-manager" form of government, which separates the policy-making and administrative functions of the city. A seven-member council elected by the city's voting residents approves budget appropriations and makes policy decisions. The council appoints a professional city manager to manage the staff and administer the council's decisions. The position of mayor, of which I currently hold, is elected by the council every two years. While the mayor retains councilmember rights and privileges and is recognized as head of the city for ceremonial purposes, I do not have regular administrative duties.

We celebrate our Scottish heritage through the annual Highlander Festival held each September at Tam O'Shanter Park. The festival draws thousands of visitors and features traditional Highlander games, music, dance competitions, authentic Scottish merchandise, and family crest history. It is our hope, one day, to have the Kelso Pipe Band visit us and perform during the Highlander Festival.

Our community is blessed to have an active Sister Cities Committee who is excited to assist the City in establishing a formal relationship with you. On behalf of the City Council, I would like to follow this engagement letter with a proclamation declaring Kelso, Washington and Kelso, Scottish Borders as Sister Cities and explore opportunities for sharing more between our communities than just our name.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Futcher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "F".

David Futcher,
Mayor

DF/jb