



**Background:**

In 1998 when the Capitol Lake Adaptive Management Plan (CLAMP) was being developed the Chamber went on record with its official position supporting a lake option. The Chamber Board believed the lake option would best protect the viability of Heritage Park, downtown commerce, visitor industry, navigable water ways and Port operations. It also cited concerns of unknown flood issues that could impact downtown properties.

In summer 2009 the CLAMP Steering Committee voted in favor of a dam removal option. This action would result in Capitol Lake becoming a tidal estuary. The decision was made citing cost as a significant component of choice. The Chamber questions the cost comparison and believes the scope of the comparison was very limited. The Chamber Board has not revisited the issue over the past 11 years as the CLAMP has worked through its assessment process. It is important to note that the CLAMP process has been long, expensive, and political in nature.

The very length of the process points to an underlying conclusion that the lake will become an estuary. There is more sediment in the lake basin now than 11 years ago and not managing the sediment over this time has created greater challenges for lake proponents.

**Position:**

The Thurston County Chamber continues to support a lake option as the most desirable management option for Capitol Lake and is in strong support of the efforts of the Capitol Lake Improvement and Protection Association.