I HAD A VERY PRODUCTIVE meeting this morning with Congressman Adam Smith, our state's representative from the ninth district. Among the items we discussed were the Family First Community Center that we plan to build in the Cascade/Benson Hill area and infrastructure packages currently being discussed in Congress. I updated Rep. Smith on the status of our $10 million grant application to the Federal Aviation Administration, part of Renton Municipal Airport's master plan. I also discussed our feeding program, plans to provide temporary shelter, affordable housing and associated services, and asked if there were federal funding opportunities available to the city. Rep. Smith and I will remain in contact as we continue to pursue these and other opportunities.

River Days brought community together

I HOPE YOU HAD A CHANCE to take in at least part of last weekend's Renton River Days celebration. It is our largest community celebration and serves as a model of how a community can come together to celebrate its diversity and the value it has for all of our families and kids. The 34th edition did not disappoint. Our seniors again got the honor of kicking the event off with their annual BBQ lunch on Thursday, and on Friday residents came together to paint a wonderful mural titled "Life, Diversity, and Joy" on the river side of Carco Theatre. Saturday's parade was one of the best in my memory, led by Renton legend Grand Marshal Boone Kirkman. The parade also featured the Hazen High School band and drill team, who gave one of the sharpest performances I have seen. They were certainly deserving of the Mayor's Award. Those along the packed route also saw our first pride entry as well as many long-time favorites. Staging an event like River Days takes the time and talent of hundreds of city staff and volunteers. It also takes a sponsorship commitment by dozens of our local businesses. Without their support, River Days would not be a success. My thanks and appreciation to everyone for working together to continue to make Renton River Days a true community event.