

August 17, 2012

The Seattle City Council  
Seattle City Hall  
600 Fourth Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Members of the Seattle City Council:

As you and members of the King County Council are engaging the community around the possibility of a new NBA arena in the SoDo area of Seattle, many aspects are being discussed; particularly the excitement of returning an NBA team to Seattle and the economic benefits a new arena might provide.

We too enthusiastically support the return of the Sonics and are excited to add a National Hockey League team to the Puget Sound. However, we have very real concerns that your approval of a binding agreement before conducting a thorough review of alternative sites and impacts to the proposed site could have the unintended consequence of negatively impacting international trade competitiveness and our state's economic future.

Washington sits astride a global trading route extending from Asia to the American Midwest. Trade brings jobs and prosperity to our entire state as agricultural crops, natural resources, and airplane and manufacturing parts move across the state to and from port docks. Tens of thousands of jobs in the state rely on trade, many of them directly linked to the Port of Seattle and its sister ports. The Class 1 railroads that serve our ports rely on access to rail lines and yards running through the SoDo district and adjacent to the Port of Seattle. This interdependency, in part, drove recent state legislation in support of container ports and the associated land use.

Ports throughout the state are committed to protecting and enhancing freight mobility as essential to our communities' economic vitality. As evidenced by the signatories to this letter, we view it as a collective responsibility to weigh in when policy considerations affect freight mobility and accordingly, our State's competitiveness.

We join with other maritime businesses and unions in urging you to exercise caution as you evaluate the arena proposal for an area already facing congested freight movement. SoDo is still waiting for all the traffic improvements promised but never delivered when Safeco and Qwest (now CenturyLink) Fields were built. Professional sports add value to a community but moving freight, rail, pedestrians, transit and passenger vehicles all in the same congested area takes careful planning and adequate finances. We are concerned that a third arena in an already busy and congested area, could lead to economic consequences that all of us – throughout our state – will regret.

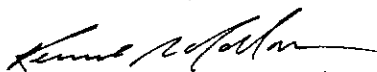
Certainly sports arenas, condos and restaurants are appealing to many in the community. But we ask you to remember the workers, farmers and families across our state whose jobs rely on access to the Port of Seattle, its industrial base, and ports around the state to ensure that their products can reach the expanding global market.

Please conduct the proper site and impact analysis of the arena proposal before signing a binding agreement with the proponent, so that the benefits and trade-offs are fully visible and understood.

Sincerely,



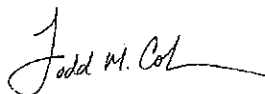
John Mohr  
Executive Director  
Port of Everett



Ken O'Hollaren  
Executive Director  
Port of Longview



Commissioner Dick Marzano  
Commission President  
Port of Tacoma



Todd Coleman  
Executive Director  
Port of Vancouver



Eric D. Johnson  
Executive Director  
Washington Public Ports Association

Cc: Members of the Seattle Port Commission  
Chief Executive Officer Tay Yoshitani