

December 14, 2009

Exhibit	"B"
Port Commission	Special
Meeting of	Dec. 15, 2009

Bill Bryant
Seattle Port Commission President
Port of Seattle
Pier 69
Seattle, WA 98191

Re: Proposed On-Demand Taxi Service Contract

Dear President Bryant

I am writing to recommend that the Commission defer further review and approval of the On-Demand Taxi Services contract until the arrival of the newly-elected Commissioners in January. I understand from the recent agenda that a final vote is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, though prior Commission discussions had indicated that the decision would await the new Commission. I am writing in my personal capacity in light of the short time frame

A significant issue in the recent elections involved the reduction of taxicab deadheading, a problem that arises from taxi regulations that often require a taxi carrying a fare-paying passenger to or from the airport to return empty. Deadheading unnecessarily increases air pollution, fuel consumption, traffic congestion, taxi operating costs and fares.

I question whether the proposed five year contract adequately reduces deadheading. The staff memorandum fails to explain why the proposed reduction in deadheading is so meager and what alternatives may be available. It would be interesting to know the magnitude of the carbon footprint under the current contract and the extent of the reduction under the proposed bids. I believe that the Port of Seattle should be able to do better than the proposed 6% reduction in deadheading in the first contract year, increasing to only 11% in the second.

Since the newly-elected Commissioners campaigned on this issue, they should participate in the Commission's final decision. Conducting a Commission vote before the new Commission is seated appears to be a maneuver around the election results. Waiting until January is the right message to send to voters.

Sincerely,

Bruce D. Carter
3012 West Eaton Street
Seattle, WA 98199

Cc: All Commissioners