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August 9, 2012

Tay Yoshitani  
Chief Executive Officer  
Port of Seattle  
P.O. Box 1209  
Seattle, Washington 98111

Dear Tay,

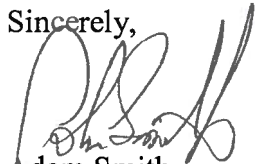
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Port and its employees for receiving the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. To be chosen as one of the fifteen employers across the country is a notable accomplishment.

The Department of Defense's Freedom Award is the agency's highest recognition awarded to employers for their support of Guard and Reserve employees. The Port was able to shine among the 3,000 nominations from Guardsmen, Reservists, and their family members. The award is also an indication of exceptional work with a promise to give back by hiring members of the military and veterans so that their transition to civilian workforce is smooth.

The Port's focus to include Guardsmen and Reservists serves as an inspiring model for other employers to hire more service members. I am confident that the Port of Seattle will continue to exceed our nation's expectations and develop more programs in the future to expand the workforce.

Once again, I am pleased to congratulate the Port and its employees for your dedication to our community and nation. I look forward to continuing to hear great things in the future and if my office can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my District Office at (253) 593-6600.

Sincerely,



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress