

**Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council, AFL-CIO**

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December 2, 2013

Tay Yoshitani, CEO
Kurt Beckett, Deputy CEO
Port of Seattle
2711 Alaskan Way
Seattle, WA 98121

Dear Mr. Yoshitani and Mr. Beckett:

As a follow up to MLKCLC Executive Secretary Freiboth's letter, we the undersigned unions and organizations call on you to remain neutral on SeaTac Proposition 1 and strongly urge you to stay out of the legal proceedings being initiated by Alaska Airlines.

The electoral victory of Proposition 1 was not simply a win for 6,300 low-wage workers in and around Sea-Tac Airport. It was a campaign that our unions and community allies eagerly supported and participated in. It is a salient issue of our times, and full implementation of the new law is a top priority of the labor movement.

We understand that one of the legal arguments being advanced by Alaska Airlines is that the Revised Airports Act of 1945, RCW 14.08, prohibits the City of SeaTac from implementing employment standards covering businesses that operate inside the airport. If Alaska Airlines were to prevail in its argument, it would create the absurd situation of a second-class of workers in our state — airport workers who would be the only group of workers in Washington state with no right or ability to reach out to their local governments for any type of worker-protective legislation, including legislation related to health and safety, paid sick leave, and minimum compensation and benefits.

That is why we were disturbed to learn that, after being pulled into the legal proceedings by Alaska Airlines, the Port may now align with Alaska Airline's legal position.

Such a stance, besides being legally incorrect, would once again put the Port at odds with the entire labor community on the issue of workers' rights and livable wages.

During the time leading up to the passage of Proposition 1, the Port appropriately did not take a position on Proposition 1. Should this issue be placed before the Port Commission for review at your December 3rd meeting, we urge you in the strongest terms to recommend a continued position of neutrality and to stay out of the court case proceedings.

Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
AFGE Local 1121
AFT-WA
IAM Local 751
Inlandboatmen's Union
ILWU Local 19
Laborers Local 1239
OPEIU 8
Pride At Work
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action
Sailors Union of the Pacific
Seattle Education Association
Seattle/King County Building & Construction Trades Council
SEIU 6
SEIU 775NW
SEIU 1199NW
Teamsters Joint Council 28
Teamsters Local 38
Teamsters Local 117
Teamsters Local 252
Teamsters Local 763
Teamsters Local 117
UFCW Local 21
UNITEHERE Local 8

cc: Port of Seattle Commissioners

opeiu8/afl-cio