

July 1, 2014

Port of Seattle Commission Co-President Courtney Gregoire
Port of Seattle Commission Co-President Stephanie Bowman
Port of Seattle Commissioner Tom Albro
Port of Seattle Commissioner Bill Bryant
Port of Seattle Commissioners John Creighton

Dear Port of Seattle Commissioners:

We are pleased to see that the Port leadership recognizes the need to improve working conditions and opportunities for thousands of low-wage workers at SeaTac Airport.

Our unions, along with many community allies, have been working together for years to make every airport job a good job. For too long thousands of workers – airline contract workers, concessions workers, rental car workers and others – have been paid poverty-class wages while the businesses at our world-class airport thrive.

Last year as you know, voters in the City of SeaTac placed Proposition 1 on the ballot. It proposed to establish a \$15 minimum wage, paid sick leave, opportunities for full-time hours, job protections for when contractors change, and safeguarding of workers' tips. The initiative covered the full spectrum of low-wage workers in and around the airport, not just some.

There was a robust public debate. In the end the voters approved Proposition 1. That debate is over. The only thing left is for the State Supreme Court to determine the validity of the new law, which it will do later this year.

Any forward progress in wages and working conditions is of course welcome. But as with the recent move by Alaska Airlines to increase the pay of its contracted workforce, the Port's proposal falls far short of what the voters approved. It excludes many workers whom the voters determined deserved support, and it provides fewer benefits and protections than were approved.

Any solution short of what the community advocated for and what the voters approved is inadequate for workers. It weakens the democratic process, and it erodes public trust in the Port.

If the Port indeed believes now that it has the authority to enact wage and benefit standards, it should enact the standards that the voters approved last year. Doing so would show respect for the valuable contributions made by all airport workers and respect for the voters and the democratic process.

Sincerely,

Dave Freiboth, Executive Secretary
ML King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO

David Rolf, President
SEIU 775NW

Sergio Salinas, President
SEIU Local 6

Dave Schmitz, President
UFCW Local 21

Tracey Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer
Teamsters Local 117

Erik Van Rossum, Secretary-Treasurer
Unitehere Local 8