



African Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest

Promoting bilateral trade and investment between the Pacific Northwest US and Africa

January 12, 2016

Port of Seattle Commissioners:

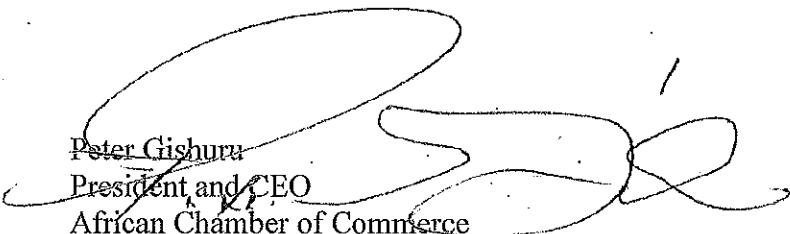
I am writing on behalf of the African Chamber of Commerce. We are committed to building and strengthening the business capacity of African immigrants and refugees in Washington State.

As you know, a large portion of the drivers of Taxi, TNC and Flat Rate For Hire vehicle drivers are Africans. We do not wish to choose sides in any debate that involves these various forms of transportation that our families rely on for their survival. The Port has done a good job reviewing ways that the three forms of transportation can work successfully at the airport and we thank the Commissioners and staff for their work. The preferred alternative, number 3, is a reasonable option and one that will do the most good for all in our community and serve the public well.

We observed carefully the creation of a previous compromise that was put together by Seattle Mayor Murray. He decided to also offer the opportunity to all three transportation-types and so far, it is working well in the city of Seattle. In the Mayor's ordinance, he did not choose sides, but gave every transportation-type some of what it wanted, but not everything. He asked each side to work with one another and the results have been positive — the city residents are served better and the drivers of these different kinds of vehicles are doing well.

The Airport-area is becoming more and more populated with Africans Immigrants and are working in every aspect of Airport operations. We want there to be harmony and cooperation as we become a larger part of the community which includes our increasing numbers in the workforce in and around Sea-Tac. By approving Alternative 3 and moving on from a difficult period, we thank you for giving our community broader opportunity and making sure as County-wide elected officials, you are making sure what you do benefits all.

Sincerely,


Peter Gishuru
President and CEO
African Chamber of Commerce

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