

Dear Commissioners

My name is Peter Gishuru. I am the CEO of the Northwest African Chamber of Commerce.

I testified on January 12 when the Commission pushed hard to get this RFP out and approved quickly. Some of the Commissioners asked the staff about the possibility of concluding the process in three months.

I have been in America since 1963. I know how the system works and I know how honorable the port of Seattle is. Please remember that when there have been five delays, as has been the case with this announcement, it makes me uncomfortable.

As you know, many of the individuals who depend on this industry are immigrants or refugees, like I was 50+ years ago. The port has spent time, energy and resources in this process. We, the community urge you to conclude this process today so both the winner and the others can move on with their lives. I trust your sense of equity and your commitment to outcomes that are transparent and honest.

My organization is willing to work with any winner to be inclusive and execute their proposal as they stated in their RFP

Thank you.

Peter Gishuru, CEO
Northwest African Chamber of Commerce