

Good afternoon Commissioners, CEO Fick and distinguished Port of Seattle public servants. For the record, my name is Ralph B. Ibarra, President of DiverseAmerica Network and I am actively engaged in fostering the participation of small and diverse firms in all Port procurement projects and activities.

First and foremost, I commend the Port of Seattle Commissioners for incorporating meaningful provisions in its resolutions and directives to assure that minority, women, and veteran business enterprises are provided due consideration in all major port-funded projects. I am pleased to report that at most of the informational sessions I have attended conducted by the General Contractors responsible for the substantial Port projects, the emphasis on inclusion of diverse subcontractors has been prominent. I also call attention to the International Arrivals Facility project that is being managed in a progressive design/build fashion. Progressive Design/Build projects have been shown to facilitate the participation of local subcontractors because unlike other design-build contracts, owners have the option to have input in the selection of local subcontractors through a "best value" bidding process with the design-build team, rather than being restricted to considering only lowest cost. Examples of value-based criteria are team and individual personnel qualifications, safety record, and innovative solutions. I urge the Commission to encourage the use of progressive design/build contracts whenever appropriate, such as with Agenda Action Item 6a requesting authorization for an alternative public works delivery mechanism for the Concourse D Hardstand Terminal (CIP #C800769).

Lastly, I want to be sure that the Commissioners know that I and many other interested parties wholeheartedly endorse the concept that is Agenda Staff Briefing 7e, Contract for Janitorial Services at Sea-Tac Airport, formulated by Mr. Lance Lyttle, Managing Director, Aviation Division, and Mr. Stuart Mathews, Director Aviation Maintenance. Thank you for your attention and thoughtful consideration.