

TABOR 100 TESTIMONY BEFORE PORT OF SEATTLE
COMMISSION – CONCESSIONS
6/13/17

Commission President Albro, members of the Commission, CEO Soike, my name is Henry Yates and I am here today representing Tabor 100.

Tabor 100 is an association of entrepreneurs and business advocates who are committed to economic power, educational excellence and social equity for African Americans and the community at large.

I want to applaud the Port of Seattle for its strong commitment to ensuring that small businesses, those operated by minorities, especially local African Americans, were included in the group of successful bidders you are announcing today.

We are pleased that the Port Commission viewed racial and ethnic diversity in its selection of concessions as a priority and we especially appreciate the significant outreach you embarked upon to bring in people who in the past have received little consideration in this process.

In particular, we know that your process for selection and recruitment included some of the suggestions our organization and others made. We thank you for listening and acting.

While we are very pleased with your announcement today, we view this as a beginning and see this institution being even more inclusive of people from various communities that are different from those who have dominated the airport retail space for many years.

We look forward to similar efforts the Port is launching to include small, minority businesses in its contracting opportunities in construction, consulting and the acquisition of goods and services.

Please continue to count on Tabor 100 to prod you to continue to do better and to engage our members and leadership in helping to improve the representation of people of color throughout the Port's vast empire — cruiseships, container terminals, airport construction and operation as well as the many other activities for which this organization is responsible.

Today, in the concession arena, we tip our hat to a job well done and want to remind you that business opportunities to create wealth in our community help address glaring disparities and provide real benefit to the community at large.

