

Exhibit	"B"
Port Commission	Regular
Meeting of	August 10, 2010

Public Comment

To: Port of Seattle Commission

From: Tony Benjamin, Director, Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle – Contractor Development & Competitiveness Center ("ULMS-CDCC"); Participant, Community Coalition for Contracts and Jobs ("CCCJ")

Date: August 10, 2010

Re: Proposed solutions toward improving processes for the inclusion of small, minority and women-owned, and economically disadvantaged firms in the Port of Seattle's business opportunities.

Community Concerns

The Port of Seattle Office of Social Responsibility's ("OSR") mission is, "To engage community stakeholders to inspire commitment and ensure that all the Port's business actions are conducted within the framework of socially responsible values such as fairness, inclusion, openness and economic parity." This mission, further, is executed through:

- Developing and participating in partnerships that address social responsibility goals.
- Working with the community to develop initiatives that effectively address the needs of the region.

Many of the citizens present at this Commission meeting are concerned about recent statistical reports evidencing a dearth of economic parity as relating to the sharing of business opportunities offered by the Port. These figures support disparate participation by minority-owned firms, thus contributing to degradation of our region's economic vitality.

Equity Barriers and Proposed Solutions

Contributing factors to economic inequity are long-standing, and characterized by complexities extending beyond our ability to devote sufficient discussion within this testimony and writing. Accordingly, we propose the following for your consideration in succinct form: (Barriers are bold, proposed solutions after the colon)

1. **Policy and Programs:** Establish an independent taskforce (e.g., diversity oversight committee) as relating to the Port's inclusion efforts.
2. **Resources and Training:** Direct a substantive financial commitment toward regional entrepreneurship and capacity-building specific to enhancing the Port's competitive positioning by encouraging both innovative solutions and high-quality performance as a result.
3. **Contracting Methods:** Package business opportunities in a way that maximizes the small firm participation

4. **Aspiration Goals:** Conduct an availability study that will provide the Port with the ability to clarify its inclusion objectives and contract terms as relating to the efforts of prime/first tier contractors to support the Port's goals
5. **Technology:** Install solutions that increase levels of transparency pertaining to both the procurement processes used and results relating to the Port's business opportunities. This technology should effectively bridge the communications gap and reduce the administrative burdens of the small business community. These solutions should provide data and reports to ensure rapid and targeted systems improvement as relating to inclusion efforts.

Conclusions

We are aware of both internal and external governance and legal rulings respectively, which frequently bring focus to, "what can't be done!" In fact, the Port's spending report is clearly indicative of why the minority business community is, especially, economically endangered. Our local, regional, national, and global economic challenges determine that we must instead think and take action by every means on "what can be done," in our region and State.

We implore, given the negative impact on the minority communities, the Port of Seattle to take immediate action per the five (5) above-listed remedies in accordance with the title and mission given the Office of Social Responsibility.

Thanks in advance for your prompt consideration of our petition.