

May 11, 2010

Statement for the record pertaining to May 11, 2010 Commission Agenda Item 6e – Commission Motion calling for comprehensive immigration reform.

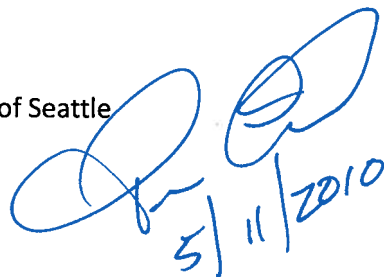
I will be voting against the motion today that pertains to comprehensive immigration reform. While I firmly believe that it is past time for our federal representatives to take up the matter, I vote against this today because:

- I do not believe that me as a Port of Seattle Commissioner or this Commission as the governing body of the Port of Seattle has been empowered by our electorate to represent them on this issue. These voters have elected members of congress and the President of the United States for this.
- Spending time on this issue takes away from important work that we have been charged to handle. We meet today to create jobs in our community, build an economy that provides opportunity to every one of us regardless of status or background, and steward our environment. These are the objectives that we have been elected to handle.
- Border security, immigration reform, and the drivers that cause immigration are well beyond our reach to impact and our sophistication to take on. For instance, while I believe that we need to create a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants that are otherwise law abiding and an important part of our economy, it is even more vital in the pursuit of ending human suffering to directly deal with the causes of immigration in the first place.

I have support comprehensive reform of US immigration policies and have personally written to my congressional representatives and President Obama urging them to take up the matter. Out of regard for those who have elected me to represent them, I must however vote against this motion.

Tom Albro

Commissioner, Port of Seattle



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