



## Washington State Legislature

July 6, 2015

Anthony R. Foxx  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Airport Concessionaire Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (ACDBE) complaint  
at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Members of Color Caucus of the Washington State Legislature, we write to register our grave concerns about the ongoing complaints of discrimination and retaliation against certain Airport Concessionaire Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (ACDBEs) by officials representing the Port of Seattle and the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SeaTac).

In December of 2014, your office received a letter of complaint of discriminatory and disparate treatment of ACDBEs at SeaTac. Your office referred this matter to the Federal Aviation Administration Office of Civil Rights, which dismissed the complaint "without prejudice" upon learning that three ACDBEs filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court. Now, we understand that these same ACDBEs are facing retaliatory action by the Port of Seattle. We, therefore, urge you to direct the Port of Seattle to cease and desist in its efforts to displace these ACDBEs until your agency is able to fully and completely investigate and resolve the initial complaint.

As state lawmakers, we appreciate and support the findings of Congress in determining a compelling need for the continuation of a federally authorized disadvantaged business enterprises program under Sec. 1101(b) of MAP-21 (P.L. 112-141, July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 405). We trust that, as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, you will exercise every authority at your disposal to uphold the intent of this legislation to remove barriers and to create a level playing field for the participation of ACDBEs in opportunities for concession contracts. To this end, we appreciate your immediate attention and intervention in this situation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Cindy Ryu in black ink.

Cindy Ryu  
Co-Chair, Members of Color Caucus  
Washington State Legislature  
State Representative, 32<sup>nd</sup> District

Handwritten signature of Bob Hasegawa in black ink.

Bob Hasegawa  
Co-Chair, Members of Color Caucus  
Washington State Legislature  
State Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> District