



September 8, 2015

Honorable Port of Seattle Commissioners:

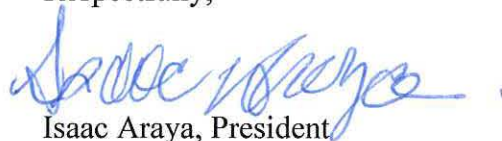
I write to explain the vital role that Yellow Cab has played in providing a living income to members of our community. We have three board members that own and drive airport taxicabs for Yellow Cab and countless members that have driven for Yellow Cab. The overwhelming majority of our community came to this country as refugees, ill equipped to apply for jobs that produce a living wages. The taxicab industry, and Yellow Cab in particular, has always provided an opportunity to our members to make enough income to raise a family with respect and integrity. Countless children in our community have been raised on taxicab incomes and have gone on to college and to wonderful careers.

As stated above, several members of our community and board own taxicab businesses. Many have large proportions of their family wealth in these businesses to which they hope to leave to their children during these tough economic times. Several other members have taken out loans to pay for an opportunity to own a taxicab business whereby they can control their own destiny. Undermining the taxicab industry at the airport could wipe out a generation of hard earned wealth and investment.

Finally, it is nonsensical to assert that the Port of Seattle is promoting racism against the East African community by allowing Yellow Cab to continue to operate at the airport for any period of time. This language is divisive and just not true. Our community is part of several coalitions of immigrant organizations including those involving the Ethiopian communities and Somali communities. My decades of volunteering and activism in the community confirm that the taxicab industry has also been one of the primary sources of income for the general East African community in Seattle. I ask that you wholeheartedly reject any assertion of racism.

I respectfully ask that the Port of Seattle take this under due consideration before making any decision regarding the airport contract.

Respectfully,


Isaac Araya, President