

April 10, 2018

Courtney Gregoire
President
Seattle Port Commission

Madame President,

Thank you for the opportunity to make public comments in person.

I have expressed concerns to the Seattle Port Commission for the past year about the closure of Pier 86. I am just as much in the dark now as I was last April. I contacted the Port at that time when I heard the pier would be closed, but no one seemed to know about it. The pier was locked off and posted with a no-trespassing sign four months later, right as salmon fishing season was starting, without any prior notice to the public. Since that time, only one other information sign has been added in the area, a simple sign north of the pier that states that the pier is closed.

As a member of the public, I would expect to see an information sign posted by the pier where I can read about why it was closed, the responsibility shared by the WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife, where to call for information, and when to expect that the pier will be reopened. To this day, I am still not clear on what has to happen to get the public fishing pier reopened, other than finding money for it, or how I can personally help get it reopened for fishing.

Right after the pier was closed last August, I contacted people that I thought would want to know or share the information, or perhaps could help get the pier fixed. I contacted the State Department of Fish & Wildlife asking about it, and received a press release from their their public affairs unit, unsigned, stating that I could find the answers to my questions in their news release, providing a link to it.

I also contacted the governor and state legislators. Senator Pederson responded, but he just said that Pier 69 was open for fishing, without committing to help or otherwise direct me as a member of the public trying to solve a problem that affects the public. I contact members of the Seattle City Council, but didn't get any traction there. And finally, I contacted the city's Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs. This office was the only agency I contacted that thanked me for my advocacy.

In response to a letter I sent to the Port Commission last August expressing my concern about the sudden closure of the pier without notice to the public, I received an email from Commission staff explaining that said that, " the Port is working closely with Department of Fish and Wildlife to manage decisions about the future of the pier." But I have not been updated. I have heard,

recently through the grapevine that is the community that the pier has been offered to Expedia, along with the adjacent waterfront access areas. however, ?

As a member of the public, not having access to the full context of what is actually happening, it sounds to me like the giveover of a public amenity and lands to a private company, and this does not sit well for me.

A bronze plaque installed just north of the pier, dedicated by the Seattle Port Commission and Port of Seattle CEO in 1980, states that, "This Public Access Shoreline Site was built in 1980 for the citizens of King County." I understand that money needs to be found in order to fix the fishing pier and reopen it, but this amenity was built for the public and therefore it doesn't seem right to me it should be transferred to a private corporation. Though I don't know the in's and out's of it, it somehow raises a red flag for me. I am concerned that the private lessee or owner of this large bit of public lands will have too much control over what happens to the pier and the trail, etc. And perhaps, too, they would like to put up large signs that will dominate the area visually and detract from the views. And I'm concerned about what happens to Fish On, a business that thrived at the pier until the pier was closed, and should be supported at this time and in the future.

I have attached to my letter a photo of the plaque installed by the pier, and several photos that I took of people who were fishing at Pier 86 on June 10, 2017. I received their consent to take these photos. I hope that you will take time to thoughtfully review these photos and consider what more you can do to get the pier reopened without giving the control of it and the adjacent public lands over to a private corporation.

Sincerely,



Heather McAuliffe
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206-633-1467

Cc: Stephanie Bowman
Ryan Calkins
Fred Felleman
Peter Steinbrueck

Attachments: photos taken by Heather McAuliffe on June 10, 2017



Port of Seattle

This Public Shoreline Access Site was built in 1980 for the citizens of King County.

**Port of Seattle Commissioners
Merle D. Adlum, President
Jack S. Block
Paul S. Friedlander
Henry L. Kotkins
Henry T. Simonson**

**Richard D. Ford
CEO**



**Leash Pets
Obey Scoop Laws**

Park Code Ord. 106615

ATTENTION

**Centennial Park
Fishing Pier is closed.**



**Public fishing available
at Pier 69.**





Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Port 
of Seattle®

PIER CLOSED

SAFETY HAZARD

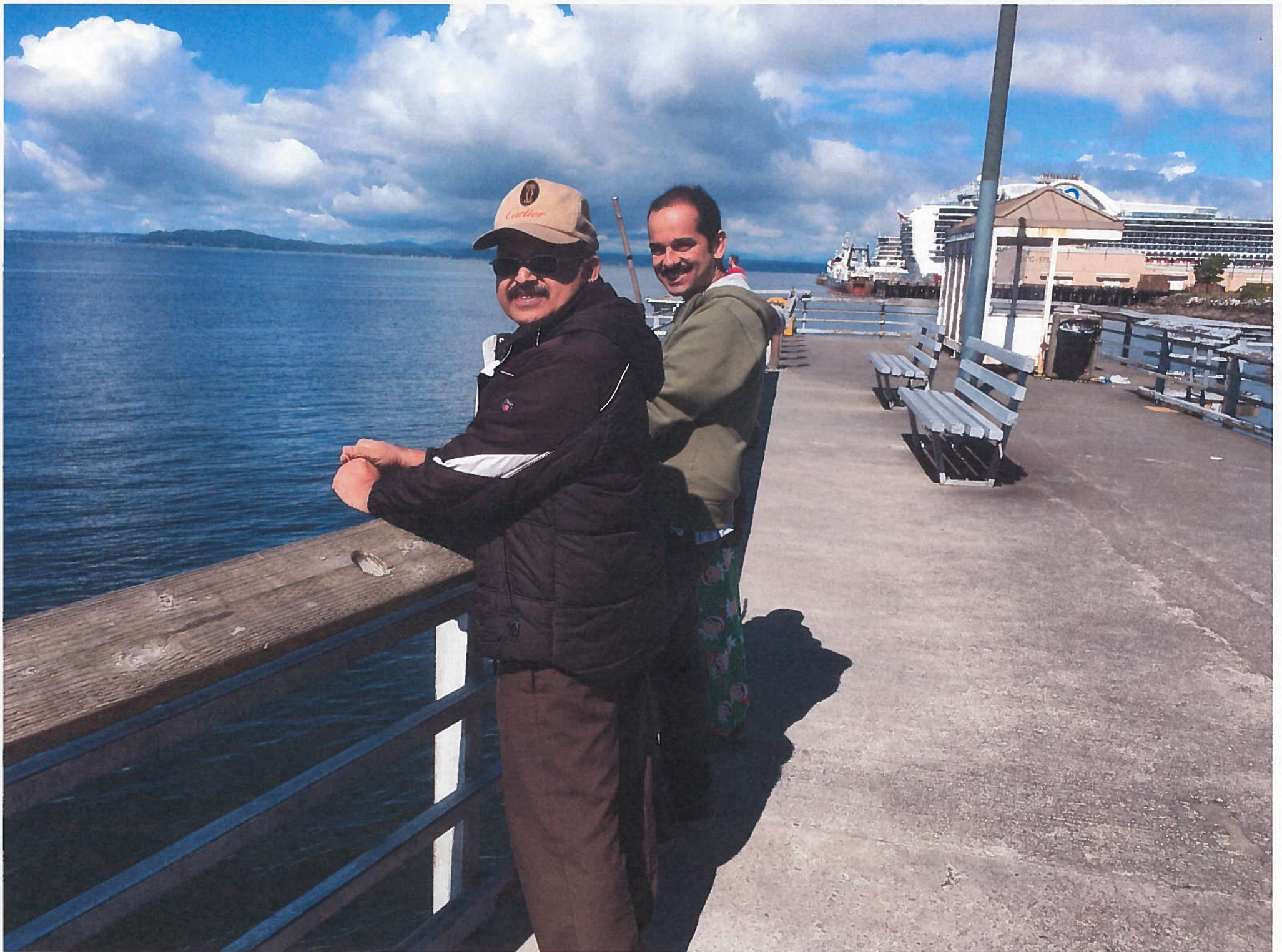
No Trespassing

(RCW 9A.52.080)

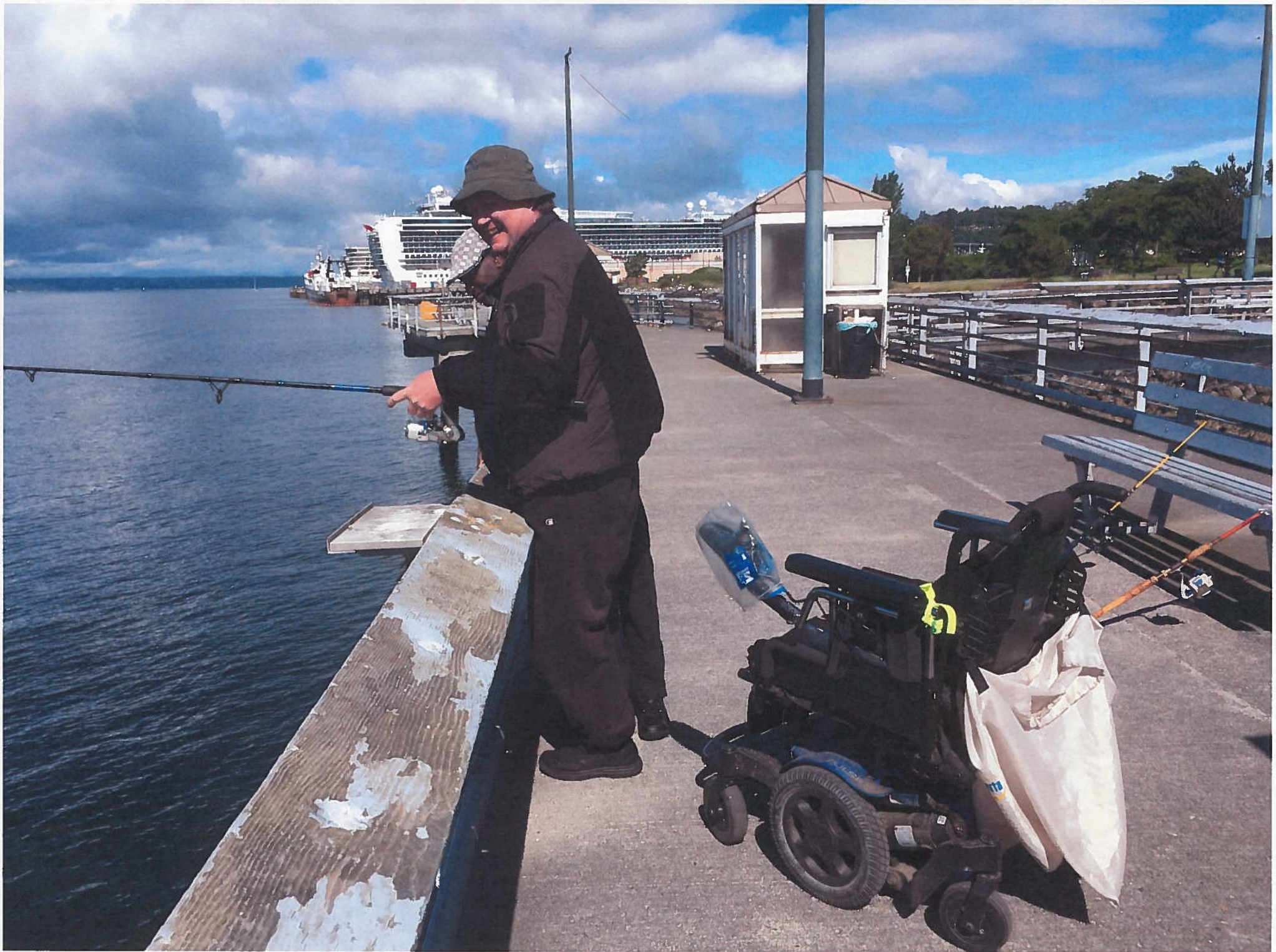
Violators Will Be Prosecuted

**This pier is subject to the rules and regulations
of applicable State, County and Municipal laws.**
















My name is David Crane. I had a stroke,
and now it is very difficult for me to
speak and write. It is also difficult for me
to understand your speech. Please give me
time to communicate, and writing key words
for me helps.

SC4

USA