

Dear Port of Seattle Commissioners Bowman, Calkins, Felleman, Gregoire and Steinbrueck,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to urge you to adopt Resolution 3747 to commit the Port of Seattle to better support immigrant and refugee communities. We're a network of community-based nonprofit organizations who help eligible immigrants successfully apply for U.S. citizenship. **The Port of Seattle is in a unique position to support this effort.**

Washington State is home to an estimated 263,000 legal permanent residents (LPRs) eligible to apply for citizenship.¹ Nationwide data tells us that 61% of eligible LPRs **have not received information about how to become U.S. citizens.** We also know that nationwide, about 44% of LPRs eligible to naturalize travel outside the United States at least once a year. If that rate holds true in Washington State, that means that more than **100,000 eligible LPRs likely go in and out of SeaTac airport for trips abroad every year.**

Passing through immigration controls after a trip abroad inevitably prompts travelers to think about their immigration status, and it's the perfect time and place to make citizenship-related information available.

Naturalization provides innumerable benefits. Once naturalized, new Americans can participate in and defend our democracy, travel outside the U.S. with the protection of a U.S. passport, and receive automatic naturalization for their children under age 18 who are permanent residents.

Naturalization creates economic growth by raising incomes for naturalized citizens and supporting entrepreneurship. The average non-citizen in Washington earns \$41,203 per year. On average, naturalization raises an individual's income by \$3,296. If all eligible permanent residents in Washington naturalized, they could **generate \$867.3 million in additional earnings for our state's economy.**²

Making naturalization information available at SeaTac airport is a cost-friendly initiative with significant returns that would strengthen our democracy and our economy. Please support Resolution 3747.

Sincerely,

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Entre Hermanos
Eric Holzapfel, Immigration Manager

¹ New American Economy, 2016. "The Contributions of New Americans in Washington"
<https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/nae-wa-report.pdf>

² New American Economy, 2016. "The Contributions of New Americans in Washington"
<https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/nae-wa-report.pdf>

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