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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Oct 13, 2020 Port Commissioners Consideration of Equity Resolution
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October 13, 2020

Greetings from Seattle Beacon Hill Council and El Centro De La Raza. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Port of Seattle's proposed Equity Resolution.

The progress that the Port has made in implementing its commitment to non-discrimination through the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is commendable. However, it is missing one component, which is equity for the communities it serves and impacts.

We strongly recommend that the OEDI scope includes proactive implementation of an internal monitoring role for 1) Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act as amended to ensure equal access to programs, services and facilities regardless of race, color, national origin, gender etc by entities receiving federal monies, and 2) the Presidential Order on Environmental Justice.

Seattle Beacon Hill neighborhood is impacted by flights that occur every 90 seconds between 70-90 decibels before COVID. Our population is 72% people of color, 44% immigrants and 1 out of 4 are poor. The Port has a mitigation program to alleviate noise. We are not eligible for that program despite the adverse impact on the health and environment of our community members.

The recommendations to have OEDI include Title VI and Environmental Justice monitoring in its scope is consistent with the Port's Mission and commitment to equity. The Equity Community Advisory Committee is also an excellent idea that can provide meaningful input to the Port of Seattle. We are very interested in serving on the Committee. We look forward to the expansion of OEDI scope of work through the Equity Resolution.

Mil gracias and salamat po.

Estela Ortega, Executive Director, El Centro De La Raza
Maria Batayola, Chair, Beacon Hill Council

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