

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Port of Seattle Commissioners,

The Food Innovation Network, a program of <u>Global to Local</u>, is pleased to offer this letter of support for the Airport Food and Beverage Introductory Kiosk Project at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

Global to Local (G2L) was founded in 2010 to improve health outcomes for underserved communities in South King County. A key strategy links health improvements with economic development. Over the years, local immigrant and refugee populations have demonstrated strong interest in food entrepreneurship but face barriers to entering the market. This community-identified issue catalyzed G2L's Food Innovation Network (FIN) to launch a Food Business Incubator in 2017 with the capstone project of opening Spice Bridge, a global food hall in Tukwila, in September 2020.

Home to our Food Business Incubator, Spice Bridge includes a commercial kitchen, retail kiosks, and dining space with affordable rental rates for incubator participants. This effort is focused on ensuring BIPOC and immigrant and refugee food entrepreneurs have access to affordable commercial kitchens, can navigate permitting barriers, and establish retail market channel connections. As a result, these businesses are empowered to grow and manage their own affordable and stable commercial spaces in the future. The Introductory Kiosk Project would amplify our efforts in ensuring there are pathways for these businesses to grow and scale for financial stability.

We strongly encourage the Port of Seattle Commissioners to consider and approve the Airport Food and Beverage Introductory Kiosk Project proposal as it will provide economic opportunity to underserved communities here in the region.

Sincerely,

A.J. McClure Global to Local Executive Director aj@globaltolocal.org

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