



# Seattle City Council

February 8, 2010

The Honorable Senator Patty Murray  
173 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray,

We write to ask for your support of an important federal legislative amendment that would enable the U.S. maritime ports to address significant public health and safety concerns while modernizing their port trucking and logistical operations.

We fully support the Port of Seattle's goal to be the "cleanest, greenest, most energy efficient" port in the nation. We also support the Port of Seattle's goal to increase container traffic over the next decade. While such growth will bring economic benefits to Seattle's economy, it will also create significant challenges in the areas of public safety as well as environmental protection, port security and throughput efficiency in Seattle.

Due to a 30-year old loophole in the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act (FAAAA), the maritime ports of the United States may be prevented by law from addressing important environmental, security, public safety, and workplace conditions that are adversely affected by harbor trucking operations. As a result, Seattle residents, taxpayers and businesses absorb the impacts of port operations. The FAAAA needs to be updated in order to reflect current health, safety, and environmental policy goals. We ask for your support in amending the motor carrier statute within the FAAAA to expand regulatory exemptions for ports.

Our domestic maritime ports should have the ability to increase efficiency and competitiveness, protect public health and safety and ensure a stable and secure work force. We look forward to the possibility of working with you on this issue and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Richard Conlin in black ink.

Richard Conlin, Council President

Handwritten signature of Sally Clark in black ink.


Sally Clark, Councilmember

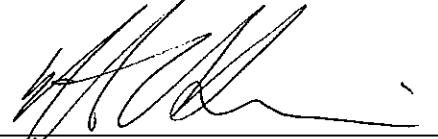
City Hall, 600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 2, PO Box 34025, Seattle, Washington 98124-4025  
(206) 684-8888 Fax: (206) 684-8587 TTY: (206) 233-0025

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Jean Godden, Councilmember

  
Nick Licata, Councilmember

  
Mike O'Brien, Councilmember

  
Tom Rasmussen, Councilmember

Cc:

Port of Seattle Commission President Bill Bryant  
Port of Seattle Commissioner Tom Albro  
Port of Seattle Commissioner John Creighton  
Port of Seattle Commissioner Rob Holland  
Port of Seattle Commissioner Gael Tarleton