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July 26, 2011

Exhibit	B
Port Commission	Regular
Meeting of	July 26, 2011

Port of Seattle Commission  
Public Hearing

Re: Worker Retention Airport Concessions Program

Dear Port Commission Members:

On behalf of the Washington Retail Association and the 2,800 stores in Washington that we represent, I would like to address our opposition to your current draft proposal related to employment at the airport. Primarily, we do not support the requirement for a worker pool for concession operators and the conditions attached to requiring them to hire from the "pool".

We have concerns that this program could have a number of unintended consequences including a net loss of jobs.

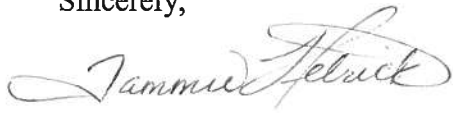
- This proposal removes the "at-will" employment for employers. Retailers need to be able to compete and their labor pool is one area where they can choose to hire based on certain skills needed at the time, and choose to fire based on a number of valid circumstances. If retailers are required to hire from a certain pool of workers or justify why they did not, this involves both the port and the retailer in possible privacy or discrimination lawsuits based on the information used to justify an employment decision and the retailer or the port's response to that decision.
- Companies who contract with the airport will have limited or reduced opportunities to sell their business if a potential buyer sees these onerous employment conditions. A buyer may see these restrictive employment conditions as a risk to operating at that property. Current owners could incur serious lost opportunities if buyers delay or can't be found.
- This proposal could also drive business away from the airport during a time when growth is important to our recovery. Some retailers may simply decide to move to more friendly properties where their business is welcomed and reflected in the tone and substance of the property's lease agreements.

- When companies do move in or acquire an existing company, they will take a conservative approach to hiring and could hire fewer employees in an attempt to reduce their labor risks.

Providing opportunities for the retail concession stores to grow without unnecessary employment restrictions results in job growth and helps with the economic recovery.

The Washington Retail Association will be glad to participate in future discussions as it works through the needs of retailers and the appropriate involvement of the Port in matters of employment for their tenants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tammie Hetrick".

Tammie Hetrick  
Vice President, Retail Services