

April 5, 2016

Seattle City Council  
600 Fourth Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104



Dear Councilmembers:

We write to urge you to oppose any plan to give away the public right-of-way for Occidental Avenue South to a private developer in Seattle's SODO community. We stand with the 75 percent of Seattle voters who, according to a new poll, oppose the City investing in a new SODO sports facility.

The site of the proposed City Council action to hand over a section of a public street represents the crossroads of the international trade, manufacturing, and transportation interests that together form a key economic engine for our state. This action would disrupt and displace businesses that provide family wage jobs that depend on efficient goods movement and easy access to international trade gateways through SODO.

The arena developers failed to adequately address concerns about increased traffic congestion and threats to the thriving SODO industrial area. At the same time, the City failed to fully consider Key Arena or other alternative sites. A 2015 study found that Key Arena, the historic home of the Seattle Sonics, could be renovated to house NBA and NHL teams for far less money than building a SODO arena from the ground up.

We support the strong desire to bring the NBA and NHL back to Seattle and the state as a whole. However, that must not come at the expense of family wage jobs or the growth and strength of our maritime, manufacturing, and industrial sectors as a whole. Furthermore, it would be premature to privatize a public right-of-way before a basketball or hockey team has been formally targeted or identified.

We stand together in opposition to giving away this public street to a private developer. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*43 signatories listed on the following page*

African Chamber of Commerce	Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition	Port of Seattle
American Waterway Operators	Puget Sound Pilots Association
Ballard Oil	Queen Anne Chamber of Commerce
BNSF Railway Company	Real Change
Columbia River Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association	Sailors Union of the Pacific
Customs Brokers and International Freight Forwarders of Washington State	Seattle Canine Club
Freezer Longline Coalition	Seattle Propeller Club
Guardian Security Systems	SSA Marine
ILWU Local 19	Total Terminals International
ILWU Local 52	Transportation Institute
ILWU, Puget Sound District Council	Washington Chain and Supply
Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific	Washington Maritime Federation
International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots	Washington Public Ports Association
Magnolia Chamber of Commerce	Washington State Farm Bureau
Manufacturing Industrial Council	Washington State Potato Commission
Marine Exchange of Puget Sound	Washington State Tree Fruit Association
Merlino Foods	Washington Trucking Association
Northwest Seaport Alliance	West Seattle Chamber of Commerce
O.B. Williams Company	WESTAR Marine Services
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders	Western Towboat Company
	W&O Maritime Supply