



STATE OF WASHINGTON

April 15, 2008

Mr. David Stern, Commissioner
National Basketball Association
645 Fifth Ave, Floor 19
New York, NY 10022-5928

Dear Mr. Stern:

We respectfully write to express our united support for NBA basketball in Seattle. After more than 40 years in Seattle and one World Championship, we strongly oppose the move of our Seattle Supersonics from the Pacific Northwest.

Seattle is a great basketball town and an incredible market for your product. As a gateway to Asia, Seattle is home to many international companies such as Microsoft, Amazon, Starbucks and Boeing. We believe that a decision to move this franchise from our great city, a city with a long and storied history in the NBA, will be a significant setback for the NBA in its move to become an even more recognized sport in the global marketplace. Moreover, we are convinced that the Seattle market is much stronger and more beneficial to the league than the proposed Oklahoma City market or several markets that currently are in the league.

The city of Seattle has a validly enforceable lease with the team and currently is in court to ensure the lease will be fully executed. Recent public disclosures also indicate that the new owners were never, in fact, acting in good faith to keep the team here in Seattle. These factors lead to the very strong conclusion that any move of the team away from Seattle would be a breach of faith with the fans, breach of contract with the previous owners, a violation of the lease with the city and contrary to the league's stated intentions regarding franchise relocation.

We, therefore, respectfully request that you remove the relocation issue from your agenda until the many complicated legal and financial matters can be worked out. In any event, we ask that relocation be rejected or in the alternative that no decision be made at this time on relocation of our team.

We recognize that these decisions are difficult but we believe Seattle's significant history in the NBA and its strategic position in the global marketplace are worthy of your serious consideration as you move forward.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Christine O. Gregoire in black ink.

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

Handwritten signature of Frank Chopp in black ink.

Frank Chopp
Speaker of the House

Handwritten signature of Lisa Brown in black ink.

Lisa Brown
Senate Majority Leader

Handwritten signature of Ron Sims in black ink.

Ron Sims
King County Executive

Handwritten signature of Richard Conlin in blue ink.

Richard Conlin
President, Seattle City Council

cc: All NBA owners (listed below)

Atlanta Hawks – Bruce Levenson
Boston Celtics – Wyc Gorsbeck
Charlotte Bobcats – Robert L. Johnson
Chicago Bulls – Jerry Reinsdorf
Cleveland Cavaliers – Dan Gilbert
Dallas Mavericks – Mark Cuban
Denver Nuggets – E. Stanley Kroenke
Detroit Pistons – William Davidson
Golden State Warriors – Chris Cohan
Houston Rockets – Leslie Alexander
Indiana Pacers – Herb Simon
Los Angeles Clippers – Donald T. Sterling
Los Angeles Lakers – Jerry Buss
Memphis Grizzlies – Michael Heasley
Miami Heat – Mickey Arison
Milwaukee Bucks – Herb Kohl (US Senator)
Minnesota Timberwolves – Glen Taylor
New Jersey Nets – Bruce Ratner
New Orleans Hornets - George Shinn
New York Knicks – James T. Dolan
Orlando Magic – Rich DeVos
Philadelphia 76ers – Ed Snider
Phoenix Suns – Jerry Colangelo
Portland Trailblazers – Paul Allen
San Antonio Spurs – Peter Holt
Sacramento Kings – Gavin Maloof
Seattle Supersonics – Clay Bennett
Toronto Raptors – Larry Tanenbaum
Utah Jazz – Larry H. Miller
Washington Wizards – Irene and Abe Pollin