



Washington State Legislature

June 23, 2009

Mayor Greg Nickels
Mayor's Office, Seattle City Hall
P.O. Box 94749
Seattle WA 98124

Mayor Nickels,

In recent years tremendous progress has been made as leaders throughout the Puget Sound region have worked together to tackle common problems. From the work to grow the aerospace industry, to the efforts to enhance international trade, from the historic investments made in regional transportation including Sound Transit, to the economic development efforts of the Prosperity Partnership, leaders throughout the Puget Sound have made the most progress when we've all had our oar in the water rowing in the same direction.

With that in mind, it was with tremendous disappointment we read about your efforts to provide local tax incentives to lure away Pierce County's largest private sector, for-profit employer. Not only does a public competition for Russell Investments represent misguided and cannibalistic public policy from a regional economic development perspective, it erodes the very foundation of cooperation we have worked to develop in recent years.

We appreciate the support of Puget Sound leaders such as Mark Emmert of the University of Washington and Tom Flavin of enterpriseSeattle who have openly and publicly supported Pierce County's efforts to retain Russell. Moreover, we have valued the support of our legislative colleagues from King County who have worked with us to pass several laws designed to help Tacoma retain its anchor downtown tenant.

They – like us – see the value of employment growth *throughout* the Puget Sound region. They – like us – understand the danger of an economic development strategy based on regional poaching.

For the sake of continuing to move the Puget Sound region forward, we hope that you will reconsider your recent proposal.

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer
State Senator
26th Legislative District



Larry Seaquist
State Representative
26th Legislative District



Debbie Regala
State Senator
27th Legislative District



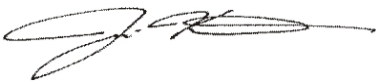
Jeannie Darneille
State Representative
27th Legislative District



Mike Carrell
State Senator
28th Legislative District



Troy Kelley
State Representative
28th Legislative District



Jim Kastama
State Senator
25th Legislative District



Dawn Morrell
State Representative
25th Legislative District



Bruce Dammeier
State Representative
25th Legislative District



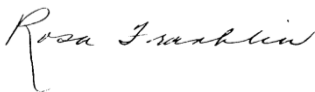
Randi Becker
State Senator
2nd Legislative District



Jim McCune
State Representative
2nd Legislative District



Tom Campbell
State Representative
2nd Legislative District



Rosa Franklin
State Senator
29th Legislative District



Steve Conway
State Representative
29th Legislative District



Steve Kirby
State Representative
29th Legislative District



Dan Roach
State Representative
31st Legislative District

Cc: Governor Christine Gregoire
Speaker Frank Chopp
Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown
Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis
Seattle City Council
Seattle Legislative delegation