November 24, 2026

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
411 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
United States House of Representatives
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
United States House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Suzan DelBene
United States House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal
United States House of Representatives
2364 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier
United States House of Representatives
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marilyn Strickland
United State House of Representatives
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Emily Randall
United States House of Representatives
1531 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, Representative Smith, Representative Larsen, Representative DelBene, Representative Jayapal, Representative Schrier, Representative Strickland, and Representative Randall,

The Port of Seattle ("the Port") remains committed to the safety of all of our passengers, airport workers, airline partners, concessionaires, and visitors. We are deeply troubled that on Saturday we observed in devastating detail how disruptive and dangerous current ICE practices at airports can be.

As you are aware, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport ("SEA") is required by federal regulation to allow federal law enforcement authorities access to conduct law enforcement activities without exception.

As we continue to engage with local and national Department of Homeland Security officials regarding the detainment of two passengers from the jetway during the November 21, 2026, boarding of Alaska Airlines flight 1306 to Los Angeles, we know that without Congressional intervention, these events are likely to be repeated at our nation's airports.

We want to thank both Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell for co-sponsoring *S. 5753 Travel Without Fear Act*. And we urge our House members to support the introduction of companion

legislation in the House of Representatives. This legislation will limit the ability of ICE to conduct civil immigration operations at or near airports without a judicial warrant related to a felony criminal conviction. In addition, the bill would enact other necessary reforms including:

- Ban information sharing between ICE and TSA for civil immigration enforcement actions that do not have a judicial warrant for a specific target;
- Require ICE agents to ensure that individuals are not within a period of authorized stay before being targeted for arrest or detention;
- Require ICE to obtain a warrant before accessing passenger data;
- Require airports and airlines to be notified in advance of any enforcement action by ICE, and;
- Make permanent an online database that tracks detainee locations for their families and attorneys and require that it be updated related to a detainee's change in custody within six hours.

The Port respects the rule of law and recognizes the federal government's authority and responsibility to enforce immigration law. However, the current practices introduce moments of extreme instability into the airport, where we pride ourselves on safe, welcoming, and efficient operations.

We are also deeply worried about the economic impact of these immigration enforcement practices. As the 12th largest airport in the United States, ensuring that aircraft are not subject to delay is a national imperative with tremendous economic impacts that can ripple throughout the economy.

Given the significant potential effects to airport security and the possible disruption of economically valuable air travel throughout the United States **we remain opposed to ICE actions that do not meet the standard of a judicial warrant related to a felony criminal conviction as included in the legislation.**

We thank each of you for your involvement and support of the Port since Saturday. As we continue to learn more, we will keep you updated and seek your assistance in ensuring that SEA is able to continue to serve the region and not erode traveler confidence in flying.

Please let us know if you have any questions, and if there are ways that we can partner with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Ryan Calkins
Commission President

Stephen P. Metruck
Executive Director

Fred Felleman
Commissioner

Sam Cho
Commissioner

Toshiko Hasegawa
Commissioner

Hamdi Mohamed
Commissioner