December 19, 2025

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

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

Dear Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, Representative Smith, Representative Larsen, and Representative Jayapal,

On behalf of the Port of Seattle and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, we are writing to share our concerns about the recent *The New York Times* article[1] highlighting federal efforts to leverage air passenger data to facilitate immigration enforcement actions at U.S. airports.

The Port of Seattle recently reinforced its goal to be a Welcoming Port, with Port Commission passage of an updated Welcoming Port Policy Directive earlier this fall. Our commitment is to the safety, inclusion, and engagement of immigrants, refugees, and international visitors who interact with our facilities or services – with a goal to foster a culture and environment that make it possible for our region to remain a vibrant and welcoming global gateway. For the Port, this is not only a deeply held value, but also an economic imperative – given how much our facilities rely on both a workforce that includes immigrants as well as international cargo and international passengers.

While airline passengers have long been subject to federal scrutiny, the federal government has generally refrained from enforcement activities at airports, given the significant potential to airport security, create public safety issues, contribute to longer passenger wait times, and generally erode traveler confidence in flying. For those reasons, we were dismayed by the revelation that the Trump Administration is actively working to utilize airline and traveler data to conduct arrests and detentions at airports.

The Port values the work of our federal partners to keep our facilities safe and maintain homeland security. However, we believe strongly that these goals can be achieved at the same time as the Port remain welcoming, accessible to all, and supportive of those immigrants, refugees, and foreign visitors who use our facilities.

Thank you for your continuing partnership to ensure that airports are efficient gateways that are welcoming for travelers from across the globe. Please let us know if you have any questions, or if there are ways that we can partner with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Toshiko Hasegawa
Commission President
Port of Seattle

Stephen P. Metruck
Executive Director
Port of Seattle

[1] https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/12/us/politics/immigration-tsa-passenger-data.html