



**MAYOR'S OFFICE**  
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November 17, 2008

Port of Bellingham Commissioners  
Jim Darling, Executive Director  
PO Box 1677  
Bellingham, WA 98227

Dear Jim and Commissioners:

We are writing today to make sure that you are aware in advance of a letter we are sending to state and federal representatives and officials. That letter, addressed to those who received your letter of Nov. 10, is enclosed.

Please know that we send this letter in a good faith effort to ensure that these leaders, many of whom are key partners in our waterfront progress to date, understand that the differences our organizations are facing are neither insurmountable nor deal-breaking. We believe strongly that Port and City officials are acting with the best of intentions on behalf of their constituencies, and we look forward to each agency working hard to resolve their differences.

Throughout each of our administrations, the City has recognized the complexity of this once-in-a-lifetime project. City officials have in the past and remain committed to honoring our agreements with the Port of Bellingham. A strong, collaborative partnership between the City and the Port is essential to the successful redevelopment of Bellingham's waterfront. City officials today remain poised and eager to continue this partnership, complete a mutually acceptable master plan, and move forward with the many next steps awaiting our joint leadership.

We expect this process, along with our interjurisdictional and community dialogue, to continue in earnest, with the end result serving well the citizens and taxpayers of Bellingham, Whatcom County and beyond for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Dan Pike, Mayor

Mark Asmundson, Former Mayor

Tim Douglas, Former Mayor