



**City of
Wenatchee**

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August 2, 2010

Dear North Central Washington Labor Council, Washington State Labor Council, United Food and Commercial Works Union and the many other representatives of labor who have contacted the City in regard to the potential change of management at the Wenatchee Convention Center,

We greatly appreciate and value the business organized labor has brought to the City's Convention Center and community over the years, and we value the opportunity you have provided to the workers at the Convention Center for jobs and benefits.

The City has new facilities that have come on line that create an opportunity to look at how business can be conducted more efficiently. In November, the City worked together with the Greater Wenatchee Events Center Public Facilities District, to have a third party look at the operation of the Convention Center and the Town Toyota Center to understand how they operate and could operate in the future for the benefit of the region. This study clearly indicated there were efficiencies that could be gained by combining the operation of the food service for the Town Toyota Center and Convention Center. In June the City and PFD together issued a request for proposal for food service. Five proposals were received on July 19th and those proposals have been evaluated first by a committee of elected and appointed representatives of the City Council, PFD and staff, and again by a smaller committee who interviewed three of the five firms to provide a final recommendation. The Coast's proposal was not competitive and did not move beyond the first round of evaluation.

We are now preparing to recommend a new firm for the food service operation of the Convention Center and Town Toyota Center. We understand and value the desire of the union to have the convention center remain union. We encourage you to sit down with the new contractor, provide them with a copy of your collective bargaining agreement, and work toward a new partnership. In the end, it is the decision of the employees in regard to the union.

We thank you for your communication. We appreciate your input and we do value the business brought to the area with your conventions over the years.

Sincerely,

Dennis Johnson, Mayor

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