

February 17, 2010

State Auditor Brian Sonntag
Insurance Building
P.O. Box 40021
Olympia, Washington 98504-0021
sonntagb@sao.wa.gov

Dear Auditor Sonntag:

The Port of Seattle is currently being sued by two different taxi cab companies for how it handled the process of bidding a new contract for on-demand taxi service at Sea-Tac International Airport.

The latest lawsuit, filed by Farwest Taxi (Rainier Dispatch) says that Yellow Cab lobbyist Chris Van Dyk essentially cheated on the proposal, and the Port of Seattle looked the other way.

We urge you to investigate the Port of Seattle's handing of its entire RFP process.

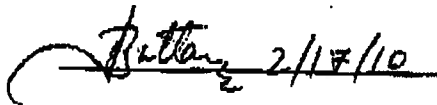
According to Farwest's lawsuit, Van Dyk drafted the bid for a joint venture between Yellow, Farwest and Orange Cab. Then he turned around and used that insider information to draft a more competitive proposal by Yellow, which ended up prevailing.

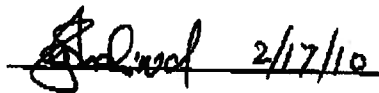
Van Dyk knew trade secrets of the two other bidders in the joint venture, and used that proprietary intellectual property to ensure Yellow Cab submitted the top bid.

Van Dyk's has stated in media reports that he wrote both proposals; even though Farwest Taxi says they were assured that would not be the case. So, we are at a loss for how the Port could ignore obvious collusion. The Port's own RFP states: *"One or all responses will be rejected if there is reason for believing that collusion exists among Proposers, and no participant in such collusion will be considered in future proposals for concessions at the Airport."* [RFP, 13.4.1, p. 6]

Now the Port faces two lawsuits, but is still poised to sign with Yellow Cab. We urge you to bar them from signing with Yellow Cab until a thorough, independent investigation is conducted.

Thank you for your time,

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Jesse Buttar, STITA member

Gurcharan Dhaliwal, president of Rainier Dispatch