

July 27, 2018

The Honorable Joe McDermott  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

This letter transmits an ordinance authorizing the Executive to enter into two agreements with the Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District to protect and maintain the public's ownership of the facilities at Safeco Field.

The proposed ordinance and agreements will address and further several of the key guiding principles and goals of the King County Strategic Plan in the following ways:

- Add and retain jobs in King County, prioritizing sectors that lead to family-wage jobs
- Exercise sound financial and risk management and build King County's long-term fiscal strength

Tourism is a proven job generator and the Seattle Mariners, Safeco Field's major tenant, draw nearly 3 million fans to Safeco Field each year. Of these fans, approximately 55 percent come from outside King County.

Safeco Field and the Mariners generate some \$100 million in wages annually through 2,200 jobs. In 2015, King County and the City of Seattle benefited from an estimated \$2.4 million in tax revenues from five separate taxes. In the next 20 years, Safeco Field is expected to generate \$46 million for local jurisdictions and \$140 million for Washington state

The proposed agreements would also provide for critical investments of \$180 million in Safeco Field to maintain the efficient functioning and safety of this publicly-owned facility through 2036.

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If you have any questions regarding this ordinance, please have your staff contact Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance Strategy and Budget, at 206-263-9687.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Rachel Smith, Chief of Staff, Executive Office