



August 30, 2018

King County Councilmembers:

We are writing in support of providing funding from the Hotel/Motel tax revenues to the accesso ShoWare Center located in Kent, Washington. ShoWare is North America's first sports & entertainment arena to achieve GOLD certification from Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design by the US Green Building Council. Due to its intimate design and flexible scale, ShoWare is the ideal venue for a wide variety of events including concerts, family shows, professional and exhibition sports, trade shows, community gatherings and more.

Showare is a huge community asset hosting community events such as the International Festival, regional community events, and graduations ceremonies for local high schools and universities in the South Sound. In addition, Showare is home to the Seattle Thunderbirds hockey team, Seattle Mist women's indoor football team, and the Tacoma Stars indoor soccer team. Having opened in the heart of the Great Recession, ShoWare has struggled to gain financial success and is just now starting to see limited financial gains. The building opened in 2009 and with the lack of profitability for the first 9 years, funds from the King County hotel/motel tax would go along way to continue the highly successful public-private partnership investment that has built an amazing community asset and world class sports and events facility in our community serving the South Sound.

It's important to remember that the Hotel/Motel tax was created as a professional sports facility funding mechanism. It was passed back in 1967 to pay for the Kingdome, and currently 100% of the revenue is being used to pay off the construction costs of Century Link Field. Dedicating a small portion of this revenue source to maintain our public investment in ShoWare Center, who houses three major sports teams for Seattle, is a very reasonable step.

Please keep the accesso ShoWare Center top of mind when exploring options for the Hotel/Motel tax funds. Bringing people to our area through events is vital in the continued success and building of the Hotel/Motel tax funds for the future and ShoWare plays a key role.

Best Regards,

Andrea Keikkala, CEO of the Kent Chamber of Commerce

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