



Washington State Senate

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Senator Phil Fortunato
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Dow Constantine
King County Executive
401 5th Ave. Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

County Executive Constantine,

I'm writing to express my concerns with King County's efforts to obstruct federal Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials from performing their duty. Your obstruction of their enforcement efforts endangers not only communities that I serve but also federal law enforcement officers, detainees, immigrant communities and the citizens of the entire state.

When ICE officers have opportunities to transfer detainees who are already in custody, it is safer not only for the officers but the detainees when that occurs in a controlled environment. Once a detainee is allowed back into the population our citizens are at risk – just ask the numerous women that have been raped. Going into a community to apprehend a criminal in an uncontrolled environment may mean confronting not only that person, who may be armed, but others in the community who also may be armed. This only increases the possibility of a firearm discharge and risk to innocent bystanders.

As a result of your office's inappropriate *quid pro quo* with lease holders at the King County International Airport, detainees must now be driven across the Cascade Mountains to another city, creating dangerous conditions for officers and detainees alike. The risk becomes greater when mountain passes must be crossed during winter conditions.

Further, it is wholly inappropriate for local jurisdictions to attempt to intervene in federal immigration actions. I'm particularly concerned by the idea that businesses engaged in legal activity with federal authorities are pressured into ending such activity due to political considerations that are given more priority than the safety of officers, detainees and the general public.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to reconsider the executive actions taken earlier this year that prohibit use of the King County International Airport to facilitate ICE's transfer of criminal detainees, especially during hazardous winter-driving conditions. If you are legitimately concerned with the safety of individuals in the custody of federal immigration authorities, requiring them to make this perilous trip should give you strong reason to reconsider.

I look forward to your cooperation to ensure the safety of our federal law enforcement officers and those in their charge.

Sincerely,

Senator Phil Fortunato
Cc: King County Council