



**Manufacturing and Maritime Summit
Opening Remarks ~ May 19, 2014**

Welcome, and thank you for joining us for today's Manufacturing and Maritime Summit.

I want to start by thanking Harley Franco, Chairman and CEO of Harley Marine, for offering us the use of this great facility.

We've come together today because of one of my first and most important commitments as Mayor . . .

. . .to help build a strong and diverse economy in Seattle by improving our position as a gateway for global trade and increasing family wage jobs in the maritime and manufacturing industries.

This is a critical goal for Seattle.

I am reminded of this every day.

From my office on the seventh floor of City Hall, the view takes in parts of our working waterfront and the industrial district. . . .

I can see the cranes and container terminals that mark the Port of Seattle, and the warehouses and manufacturing facilities at the northern edges of the Duwamish Industrial District.

It's a view that provides a clear window on where we come from as a people and a culture, who we are today as a community, and where we are headed as a City and as a region.

For well over a century, these industries—your industries—have helped shape and define the identity of this city.

We've been a shipping town since the middle of the nineteenth century, a manufacturing town since before the turn of the twentieth century, and a fishing town for more than 100 years.

The jobs that these industries created are the foundation for our economic success as a City.

It is essential that they not become the remnants of a fading past.

I am very aware that your industries are a vital part of who we are and why this City continues to thrive.

This year, for example, manufacturing companies that are concentrated in the Duwamish and Ballard industrial centers will account for nearly 40 percent of all B&O taxes collected by this City—more than \$75 million.

Without this revenue, we simply wouldn't be able to provide the levels of public safety, transportation, arts, culture, and much more, that our citizens expect and deserve.

More than that, I'm aware that your companies give our economy the diversity it must have to remain competitive in a fast-changing, globally connected world.

And they provide the residents of this city with the wide range of opportunities that we must offer to remain a prosperous and diverse city.

Wage inequality and the hollowing out of the middle class is a huge threat to equity and fairness in this City and this society.

To begin to address this critical, fundamental issue, we must have solid, family-wage jobs for those who choose not write software, or go into investment banking, or who don't dream of trading stocks from behind a desk in an office tower.

I believe we should start by recognizing that your industries already employ tens of thousands of men and women in this City in exactly the types of jobs that we need if we are going to build a City that offers opportunities for all its citizens.

And then we need to work together toward a shared vision for the future in which your industries play an even larger role in our economy.

So what will this future look like?

I believe it will be characterized by broad local and regional cooperation so that we compete together on the world stage as a region, rather than competing against each other.

I believe it will be a future in which we first protect the manufacturing and maritime jobs that we already have, and then find ways to build on the strengths and advantages your companies provide to create more jobs in these industries.

And I believe it will be a future in which we explore ways to stay on the cutting edge of advanced manufacturing through the same kind of ingenuity that has always made Seattle a world leader in progress and innovation.

So the question we are here to explore this afternoon is this—what can we do together to build on Seattle's strengths as a maritime and manufacturing center, and as a trading hub?

We ask this question at an important moment in City's history.

We live in a world that is more connected, more global, and more technology-driven than once seemed imaginable.

I believe it is our good fortune that this city and this region is home to world-renowned companies in aerospace, technology, and retail commerce.

But it will be to our great misfortune if we depend too much on any one company or any single sector of the local economy.

And it will be a grave mistake to assume that the growing importance of technology or any other industry is where our future lies, to the exclusion of others.

The truth is that building a strong economy is not a zero sum game in which the success of one sector must come at the expense of another.

It's not true that a strong technology sector in Seattle means the demise of manufacturing.

I believe we can have a thriving tech sector and ensure that your industries thrive and grow as well.

I believe we can have a city that is alive with sports and culture and that welcomes a healthy maritime industry.

I believe we can protect and preserve environmental quality in Seattle and the Puget Sound and still support the growth of manufacturing and maritime jobs.

In the Seattle I envision, the manufacturing and maritime industries will continue to play a vital role in the economic and cultural life of this City, providing good jobs and maintaining a strong connection between our past and our future.

But there is work that must be done and priorities that must be addressed to make sure that this is how our future unfolds.

This is work we must do together.

We need to identify investments and policies that will support future growth and expansion of the kinds of companies that are represented here today.

We need to strengthen local, regional, and statewide collaboration and cooperation in order to increase the export of goods and services through our ports.

We must create training programs to ensure that you have a work force to draw on that offers the skills and knowledge your businesses require.

We must explore ways to ensure that our manufacturing companies are adopting new technologies that place them at the cutting edge of advanced manufacturing practices.

We have to improve the movement of freight to terminals and rail yards in our City.

We need to support industrial growth in Seattle through policies that provide the right incentives to replace aging manufacturing facilities with innovative industrial development that is targeted to the needs of today's global economy, and tomorrow's.

We need to take a long hard look at policies and regulations that are in place now and find the right balance between growth and safety.

We also need to tell a better story to the citizens of Seattle . . . We need them to see as clearly as I do from my office on the seventh floor of City Hall how important your industries and your companies are to the health of this great City.

And while today is designed to be the beginning of an ongoing conversation to develop a broader, long-term strategy I am pleased to be able to announce concrete progress toward these key priorities.

First, to help improve the movement of freight through our City, I am recommending the creation of a new heavy haul network of truck routes that will enable permitted vehicles carrying overweight loads to travel on designated routes.

In cooperation with the Port, we will rebuild these roads to new heavy haul standards.

And second, I am recommending an amendment to our seismic regulations to bring port construction standards in line with other North American port.

While these new standards will ensure that operations continue if a seismic event occurs, they will save the Port millions of dollars as it moves forward to upgrade Terminal 5.

I want to thank you all for coming today.

I respect the hard work you do every day to build your companies and support your industries, and I deeply appreciate your willingness to work with the City of Seattle to help us understand what we can do to help you thrive.

Now I'd like to turn things over to Fred Kiga, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs at Vigor Industrial.