

JOHN WOLFE PLEADS STRONG CASE AGAINST TARIFFS

Kudos to John Wolfe. In April, the **Northwest Seaport Alliance** CEO testified before the United States House Ways and Means Committee about the potential economic risks tariffs could bring to the ports of Seattle and Tacoma. Wolfe testified at the recommendation of U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert.

“We are deeply invested in U.S. trade policy discussions because they directly impact our core business, the success of our customers and the lives of our local residents,” Wolfe said. Marine cargo operations in Seattle and Tacoma support more than 48,000 jobs, while air cargo operations at **SeaTac International Airport** help create over 5,200 jobs, Wolfe told the committee.

In response to U.S.-imposed tariffs, China recently levied tariffs on a wide range of American goods. That’s a problem for our local economy. Hefty volumes of goods going to and from China move through the ports of Seattle and Tacoma. “Our success as an airport and seaport gateway is inextricably linked to China,” Wolfe said.

You can read Wolfe’s full testimony at bit.ly/Wolfetestimony.

“As the most trade dependent county in the most trade dependent state in the U.S., Pierce County has a lot at stake in the current debate over tariffs and trade,” said EDB President and CEO Bruce Kendall. “We are fortunate to have John Wolfe deliver the free trade message to policy makers in Washington, DC.”

On the heels of Wolfe’s testimony, now is a great time to contact your congressional members and senators. Let them know you support reducing tariffs and re-engaging the **Trans Pacific Partnership**. It means jobs for Tacoma-Pierce County.

GREG UNRUH WINDS UP PRESTIGIOUS 35-YEAR CAREER

No matter how rewarding the work, there comes a time when you have to stop and smell the roses. Greg Unruh, EDB chair and **Franciscan Foundation** president, is retiring after a stellar 35-year career.

In just six years at the Foundation’s helm, Unruh made tremendous strides, including implementing the **Corporate Partner Program** and expanding funding for community initiatives around non-violence and behavioral health. He oversaw successful campaigns for the **St. Joseph Medical Center** Level III NICU, **St. Clare Hospital’s** emergency department, and CHI Franciscan’s hospice and palliative care programs, and secured millions of dollars for the new **Behavioral Health Hospital**.

That’s what he’s done lately. Prior to joining CHI Franciscan, Unruh racked up more than 30 years in the banking industry and held senior leadership positions with **Bank of America**, **Wells Fargo** and **Timberland Bank**.

“News of Greg’s retirement is bittersweet,” said EDB President and CEO Bruce Kendall. “The silver lining is that he will stay on as board chair through of the year, with full support from CHI Franciscan Health CEO Ketul Patel. He will also remain a key member of our **Farnborough Aerospace** recruitment team this summer.”

UW TACOMA PRE-LAW PROGRAM GETS BOOST FROM STATE

The drive to provide pre-law education in the **South Sound** got a boost from the State legislature with a \$200,000 annual funding commitment to the **University of Washington Tacoma**. This ongoing commitment will support enhanced coursework and programming, mentoring efforts and community outreach.

The conversation about legal education continues to grow. In 2011 community members came together united by a common goal to establish a UW Tacoma law school. A recent feasibility study shows merit for establishing a future law school in the South Sound, but recommends looking at market forces in 2021 when the demand for legal education is expected to be on the rise. In the meantime, there remains tremendous interest in legal education in the region. That's why UW Tacoma is building a solid pre-law pipeline and social justice program.

“There’s a lot of demand,” said Mike Wark, UW Tacoma assistant vice chancellor for External Relations. “It’s a great program and will feed law schools in the state and beyond. Students and faculty are excited, and community advocates are thrilled with the response.”

“This funding will help address needs identified in the South Puget Sound legal community and serve the growing number of students interested in careers that address social justice and public policy,” noted members of the Pierce County legislative delegation in a letter to chairs of the Washington State Senate Ways and Means Committee and House Appropriations Committee pledging support for the request for funding in the 2018 Supplemental Operating Budget. “We are pleased that this program will also emphasize supporting first-generation students and the diverse communities that we serve.”

Many thanks to Pierce County legislative delegation members for their tireless support, led by: Sen. Steve O’Ban



**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
BOARD** TACOMA
PIERCE COUNTY

950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 410
Tacoma, Washington 98402

Return service requested

PRESORTED STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TACOMA, WA
PERMIT NO. 588

(28th LD), Sen. Steve Conway (29th LD), Rep. Melanie Stambaugh (25th LD), Rep. Laurie Jinkins (27th LD) and Rep. Jake Fey (27th LD). Also on the team were: Sen. Randi Becker (2nd LD), Rep. Beth Doglio (22nd LD), Sen. Hans Zeiger (25th LD), Rep. Joyce McDonald (25th LD), Sen. Jeannie Darneille (27th LD), Rep. Dick Muri (28th LD), Rep. Christine Kilduff (28th LD), Rep. David Sawyer (29th LD), Rep. Steve Kirby (29th LD), Rep. Kristine Reeves (30th LD) and Rep. Mike Pellicciotti (30th LD).

“This is truly a community-generated initiative,” Wark said. “It wouldn’t have happened without our Pierce County delegation and diligent community leaders who supported this effort from the start,” he added, citing Valarie Zeeck, attorney and partner at **Gordon Thomas Honeywell**; David Zeeck, UW regent, and editor and publisher of **The News Tribune**; Herb Simon, EDB board member and former UW regent; Mark Pagano, UW Tacoma chancellor; and Bruce Kendall, EDB president and CEO.

“This is just one more indicator that UW Tacoma is a powerful economic engine for the South Sound,” Kendall said. “This funding bolsters an already strong program that is vital to the region’s legal community and beyond.”

Teamwork is a service of the EDB, a non-profit corporation focused on recruitment and retention of primary businesses in Tacoma and Pierce County, Washington, USA.

950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 410 / Tacoma, Washington 98402 / 253.383.4726