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January 11th, 2019

Sound Transit Board
401 S. Jackson Street
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Sound Transit Board Members

On January 28, 1954, almost 65 years ago, my grandfather and his two original partners opened the very first *Dick's* Drive-Ins on 45th St in Seattle and it was love at first bite for Seattleites. Today our customers enjoy the same quality food fast and inexpensively. Generations have grown up driving their first car to *Dick's*, getting their first job there, meeting their spouse in line, and celebrating a win with a burger, fries and a shake. Our employees enjoy the highest pay and benefits in the industry including 100% employer paid health insurance and a \$25,000 scholarship. Our Change for Charity and RoundUp for Charity program has raised almost \$2,000,000 for local charities serving the homeless in our community.

On March 6, 2017 we announced that we were ready to open our seventh location and asked our customers where we should look. In the first 24 hours we received over 100,000 votes in our online poll from customers east and south of Seattle. Over the next three weeks we received more than 170,000 votes in total. On March 27, 2017 we announced that the South had won with over 60% of the votes.

Thousands of e-mails poured in from customers sharing specific locations in the South Sound. Mayors from across the region proudly shared their passion for their cities. In the end we found a 'Goldie Locks' site. It is close to four great cities in the South Sound (Kent, Des Moines, Federal Way and SeaTac) and is on a busy highway with easy access. There are several local high schools nearby and it's within walking distance of Highline College.

When we broke ground on the property last April, we asked our customers to share their favorite memories in a contest to be one of the few to help us turn the first dirt. One of those winners was a little girl who loved to go to *Dick's* when she visited the Woodland Park Zoo and was thrilled that there would be one closer to her home. We invited her back to help us cut the ribbon when we opened the restaurant in December. Someday she might get her first job with us, might use the scholarship to go get a degree, she might bring her kids and her grandkids to the restaurant for their first taste of a french fry and tell them how she was there on day one.

None of that will be possible however, if Sound Transit decides to build its Operations and Maintenance Facility - South for the Tacoma Link Extension on our property. We welcome the

opening of the new light rail station in Kent, just blocks from our new location. It will be good for our customers and good for our employees. But, we can't serve our employees, customers and communities if we are not there.

We echo others who have shared with you their support for the Midway Landfill as a much more suitable alternative site. We cannot say it better than the Mayors of Kent and Federal Way along with the City Manager of Des Moines did in their letter to you earlier this month:

“... siting this project on the landfill has the potential to provide a future for land that has almost no other possible use, thereby providing a regional solution to a regional issue. Not only would this action put an otherwise blighted, publicly-owned property to productive use, but it would also avoid the needless condemnation of private property and unnecessary displacement of significant economic activity.”

We are not a large company. Opening a new location requires a large investment of financial and human capital. But, as a family owned business, we make decisions for the long-run. We hired 40 new employees from the Kent area months before we opened and trained them throughout the summer in our Seattle stores, transporting them to and from Kent at company expense. Many of those employees are already using our scholarship program to attend Highline College and pursue their education.

To secure the perfect location, we purchased more land than needed to build our site and have improved that land to make development of the surplus property easier. We hope that in the near future that land will be home to yet another retail establishment that creates jobs and serves the communities of the South Sound. During construction we used quality products and built with the intention that our newest restaurant will still be serving customers 65 years from now.

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of customers we'll serve and the thousands of employees we'll train and help to graduate over the *next* 65 years, we ask you to please remove the Midway Shopping Center and our brand new and only location in the South Sound from consideration.

Thank you,



Jasmine Donovan
Executive Vice President
Granddaughter of namesake and founder Dick Spady
Dick's Drive-In Restaurants