

October 21, 2010

Dear Councilmember Harris,

Thank you for your email of October 9th regarding the funding of remedies for previously installed noise mitigation packages. We appreciate your interest in this topic and the concern for area property owners.

I would like to take this opportunity to address a what appears to be misconception in your communications regarding implementation of HB 2315 and previously installed sound insulation, and adoption of Port Commission Motion 2020-04.

The Commission's vote to approve Motion 2020-04 on February 25, 2020 expressed our intent to accelerate the remaining Part 150 sound insulation projects. That is clearly stated in the introduction to the motion, and in the majority of our conversation regarding this topic. While there was discussion regarding "failed" prior noise insulation, that was not part of the motion that was adopted, and the Commission has not directed staff to pursue such a program.

On March 9, 2020 I understand that you reached out to Executive Director Metruck regarding the subject of failed noise insulation packages. Executive Metruck asked that you speak with Port staff, which you did on April 21, 2020 and again around August 15, 2020, in advance of talking with him on August 19, 2020. In all three conversations the Port has communicated the challenges related to COVID-19's impact on funding and budget priorities, the priority set by Commission to accelerate and complete our Part 150 obligations (as outlined in Motion 2020-04), and the need for information to help inform what the size, scope, and budget for a new program to address failed noise mitigation packages might look like. You indicated to staff in April that you would provide such information, with reference to some 200 houses with failed noise installations, but it has yet to be received.

As shared with you previously, for a new "second chance" noise program to address the legislation that Rep. Orwall sponsored, the Port would need to develop a program to address the failures, determine scope, identify a funding source and ensure staffing is available. And, while we advocate for Federal funding, there is no Federal reimbursement currently available for these types of projects. I am sure you are aware of the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the Port's financial position. Funding will be an obstacle given the priority to finish the current sound insulation projects underway for single-family homes, condominiums and places of worship.

We appreciate the passion with which you have reached out regarding failed noise insulation packages. We continue to follow this topic and will look for your follow-on information as well as any state or federal updates. Our focus, however, must remain on completion of the Part 150 sound insulation projects as quickly as possible.

Thank you again for your correspondence.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Steinbrueck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a stylized "S".

Peter Steinbrueck
Commission President
Port of Seattle