



SOUTH SOUND MILITARY & COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

6000 Main St SW, Lakewood, WA 98499 | www.ssmcp.org

Executive Leadership Team:

- City of Lacey
- City of Lakewood
- Joint Base Lewis-McChord
- Pierce County

Steering Committee:

- City of DuPont
- City of Tacoma
- City of University Place
- City of Yelm
- Thurston County
- Nisqually Tribe
- Washington State Military Department

Working Group Chairs:

- Clover Park School District
- Pierce Transit
- Puget Sound Energy
- South Puget Sound Community College
- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
- Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
- Thurston Regional Planning Council
- United Way-Pierce County
- Washington State Department of Transportation

October 4, 2017

Mr. Jeff Bezos
Chief Executive Officer, Amazon
2121 7th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121

RE: Connections That Deliver – Tacoma/South Sound’s proposal for HQ2

Dear Mr. Bezos:

The South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP) strongly supports the City of Tacoma’s proposal to locate Amazon HQ2 in Tacoma. The SSMCP is a partnership positioned to provide regional leadership to bridge military and civilian communities. Our regional partnership consists of 52 organizations and local jurisdictions from across the South Puget Sound.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) offers a diverse and qualified talent pipeline as well as leading edge transitional services such as the America’s Jobs Center at JBLM. Recent SSMCP surveys of the JBLM workforce indicate 59% of those service members transitioning off active duty into the civilian workforce choose to stay in the South Sound region. SSMCP appreciates Amazon’s continued support for the Washington State transition summit held on JBLM. This large (over 32,000 veterans live in the vicinity of JBLM) and growing veteran population will provide Amazon with a disciplined, results-oriented workforce. We understand Amazon has a military recruiting program and existing affiliations into JBLM’s transitioning service member programs such as Northwest Edge and Camo-2-Commerce. We can think of no better way to honor patriotic veterans than situating Amazon HQ2 and a major employment center in the communities where they live.

Locating a large employment center in Tacoma provides the entire Puget Sound region with a corollary benefit, one that will be of value for King County residents as well. The rising cost of real estate in Seattle and King County has become an economic driver for a migration of the King County-based workforce into Pierce and Thurston County. Over 60% of Pierce and Thurston County residents drive to King County every day to work. Locating more jobs nearer to where people live gets South Sound based commuters off I-5 much farther south. And, the homes of JBLM veterans are already in the South Sound. This corollary benefit demonstrates locally how Amazon can put its *“scale and inventive culture to work on sustainability and protecting our environment”*.

A decision to base Amazon HQ2 in Tacoma, much like Amazon’s decision to locate a fulfillment center in DuPont in 2015, benefits JBLM military-civilian communities and Amazon business operations such as its military recruiting program as well. Locating Amazon HQ2 in Tacoma reduces traffic congestion, provides Amazon with a highly skilled, local veteran population to draw upon, and it rewards military veterans with an improved opportunity for living wage jobs nearer to where they live.

Sincerely,

Bruce Dammeier
Pierce County Executive

Don Anderson
Mayor, Lakewood

Bud Blake
Thurston County Commissioner