



**Washington Community Action Network**  
1806 E Yesler Way \* Seattle, WA 98122  
206-389-0050 p \* 206-389-0049 f  
[www.washingtoncan.org](http://www.washingtoncan.org)

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May 1, 2019

Peter M. Rogoff  
Sound Transit CEO  
401 S. Jackson St.  
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Signature Gathering at Federal Way Transit Center

Dear Mr. Rogoff,

Washington Community Action Network, a grassroots organization, has started a short signature gathering effort, but we have encountered problems with Sound Transit. We have serious concerns about Sound Transit's policies that severely limit political expression at transit centers, given that this is detrimentally impacting our First Amendment rights. As a woman-of-color led organization, we believe it is vital for us to effectively engage with the public on matters of utmost public interest. Sound Transit, a publicly-funded institution, is creating rules that prevent us from accomplishing this goal - and this is incredibly troubling.

On Tuesday April 30, 2019, two Washington CAN organizers were peacefully collecting signatures at the Federal Way Transit Center. After talking to and collecting the signatures of only two individuals, Sound Transit security informed the organizers they were not allowed to collect signatures on the main boarding platform. The officer then escorted them to the designated "free speech zones" - a location in which passerbys are extremely infrequent. What good is free speech if we are not allowed to move freely and actually talk with our community about issues that directly affect them? The security officer continued to vigilantly watch the two women as if though their presence engaging transit riders with a smile was a potential threat to the station. The women found his behavior unnecessarily intimidating and decided it was best to leave the station.

We do not believe we should be blocked from engaging in political speech at platforms at the Federal Way Transit Center. Two organizers peacefully discussing political matters with the public on these platforms, which are designed for people to walk and stand, does not present a safety issue. Therefore, it is difficult to discern what governmental interest exists to prevent us from exercising our First Amendment rights, other than to suppress our political speech.



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We would like to work together with Sound Transit to come to a solution that works for both parties, such as limiting the number of petition gatherers at Sound Transit sites, but allowing them to freely speak with the public. Please respond to this letter by Monday, May 6, 2019 by emailing [xochitl@washingtoncan.org](mailto:xochitl@washingtoncan.org) or 206-557-9456. Further delay of our political speech is further suppression of our First Amendment rights. We too share your interest in ensuring that community members are accessing transit to get to their jobs, families, and communities and therefore look forward to coming to a solution.

Sincerely,

Xochitl Maykovich  
Political Director  
Washington Community Action Network

Cc: Sound Transit Board of Directors