



Washington State Senate

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Senator Curtis King
14th Legislative District
January 15, 2018

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Pat Kohler, Director
Washington State Department of Licensing
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Director Pat Kohler,

I read with interest the recent article in the Seattle Times detailing the current confusion regarding enforcement of the Governor's Executive Order on Immigration from last year at your agency and the resignation of Deputy Director Jeff DeVere. I respectfully request that you decline to accept his resignation or rescind your acceptance.

Mr. DeVere is a dedicated and professional public servant. He worked for years in the State Patrol and has distinguished himself in his service to the state at your agency. I have interacted with him on a number of occasions on behalf of DOL and in his previous capacity with the State Patrol and have always been impressed with his knowledge, honesty, and candor.

While I do not fully know the circumstances of his departure, it would appear from recent media reports that it was related to comments he made in the media about DOL's providing data to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency. While I do not wish to have a policy debate on this issue, I would note that the Governor's Executive Order was not a model of clarity. At the time it was issued members of the legislature raised questions about the impact of the order on the day to day operations of a number of agencies including the Department of Corrections and the State Patrol. It is not surprising that the Department of Licensing would have similar issues in attempting to implement the impact of an ambiguous executive order.

I would be troubled to learn that a dedicated public servant like Mr. DeVere was being made a scapegoat for political purposes on a matter so lacking in legal clarity that apparently it is still being researched by the Attorney General's office. I have not spoken to Mr. DeVere and he has not requested this communication on his behalf, but I felt compelled to reach out to you.

Please consider my request and let me know if I am incorrect in my assumptions or perceptions of the matter. I would appreciate a response from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis King".

Sen. Curtis King

Committees: Transportation, Chair • Commerce & Labor • Rules