

Dear Seattle Metro Chamber members,

Thank you to the 850 Chamber members who joined us yesterday at our Annual Meeting to celebrate the start of our 2019-2020 program year. If you missed it, you can now hear the [live episode](#) we recorded for our podcast, [Under Construction](#), featuring former Washington State Governor, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and U.S. Ambassador to China Gary Locke.

Our theme, "Making Our Mark," focused on our opportunity—and our responsibility—to leave a positive, enduring legacy. The role of business is changing in the 21st century. More is expected of our engagement at every level: locally, nationally, and globally. This makes thoughtful civic partnership even more essential.

I firmly believe we can meet this challenge and be true to who we are as a business community. The Chamber is committed to helping you and your employees thrive in an equitable and inclusive regional economy. Our employers are stronger when as many people as possible have good jobs with reasonable commutes to homes they can afford.

This means first and foremost, advocating on behalf of business. We are proud to represent 2,600 member companies who employ 750,000 people in our growing region. From favorite neighborhood restaurants to brands known around the world, we appreciate your presence here.

It means supporting and protecting major investments in housing, transportation, and education. It means standing up for policies that expand economic opportunity such as I-1000, the Washington State Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Act. It also means voting no on Tim Eyman's I-976, which would devastate voter-approved ST3 and other mass transit investments throughout our region.

It means embracing our role as a convener and connector. We are committed to bringing people together to build the mutual trust we need to address our biggest challenges. We hope you'll join us at one or more of [our 300+ events](#) this year.

Finally, it means showing up in new ways around our region. We are proud of our business retention program, [REACH King County](#), which works with businesses and local governments in 39 cities and towns to help employers thrive and grow. We are also incubating [Housing Connector](#), which works directly with landlords and property managers to lower barriers to housing for those most in need. This program has already helped house over 65 individuals in our region.

Thank you for choosing to locate your business in the Seattle metropolitan region. We look forward to advocating for you and working alongside you in the coming year.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn

**Marilyn Strickland**

*President & CEO*

[Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce](#)