

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise in Airport Concessions Program Implementation Modifications

A Rule by the Transportation Department on 10/03/2025



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Martin Luther King, Jr. County ("King County") government firmly believes that it is paramount to retain race- and sex-conscious Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goals and programs in federal contracts to effectively remedy ongoing discrimination in public contracting based on a combination of implicit bias and disparities in access to wealth flowing from generations of explicit racial and sexual discrimination, and denial of fair and equal economic opportunities. The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) interim final rule 90 FR 47969 deeply harms King County small businesses and our broader community by removing the DBE classifications and relevant data and replacing them with a race- and sex-neutral approach. This change will significantly reduce equitable competition; increase economic burdens on historically excluded groups; eliminate critical data on disparities; and prevent local governments from implementing focused strategies to address inequalities to level the playing field.

Submitted by Ken Guy, Director of Finance and Business Operations Division in the Department of Executive Services on behalf of Martin Luther King, Jr. County ("King County") in Washington State

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