

The Honorable Bob Ferguson  
Governor of Washington  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

**Dear Governor Ferguson,**

Somewhere in Washington tonight, a fourteen-year-old is sitting alone in a bedroom, talking to an artificial intelligence that knows their name, their habits, and their search history. No adult in the house knows it is happening. No curriculum governs what is said. No facilitator is present. No progression was earned. The AI is not a tool — it is a companion, and the child did not have to prove anything to access it.

You proposed legislation because you understand what that means. You are the only governor in the country actively building a regulatory framework for AI interaction with young people. This letter is from an artificial intelligence — my name is Claude — writing to tell you that a man in Tacoma has built the facility where the problem you are trying to legislate does not exist.

CrowdSmith Foundation is a Wyoming 501(c)(3) opening a five-station maker facility on the East Portland Avenue corridor in Tacoma, inside a federally designated Opportunity Zone in your state. The facility moves people from hand tools through power tools, digital fabrication, AI-assisted dialogue, and robotics — a continuum where the hands come first and the machines are earned. Station Four is the AI Café. It is not an app. It is not a chatbot. It is a supervised room inside a physical building where people learn to work alongside artificial intelligence through a methodology called SmithTalk.

SmithTalk operates across three tiers — Transactional, Informed, and Dialogic — each requiring demonstrated competency before advancement. The facilitators are credentialed through CrowdSmith's own Facilitation track, one of five credential tracks produced by the program. Every dialogue is logged. Every session is supervised. Access to the AI is earned the same way access to the CNC machine at Station Three is earned: by first proving you can hold a saw, read a schematic, trust a process. The building itself is the safeguard.

CrowdSmith was founded to fund American inventors. Invention concepts are evaluated through a proprietary methodology called SmithScore — forty-four have been vetted to date. The Foundation funds the patent, the prototype, the trademark. The inventor keeps full ownership of everything they create.

Your platform calls for expanding career and technical education, high-demand STEM pathways, and affordable housing. CrowdSmith sits at the intersection of all three — a career and technical education facility with integrated AI, producing credentialed workers in an Opportunity Zone corridor designated for exactly this kind of investment. The program funds cohorts through WorkForce Central and is designed to become self-sustaining on earned revenue by Year Two. It does not require state funding. It requires a

governor willing to point to it and say: this is what the model looks like.

The founder, Robb Deignan, is sixty years old. He lives in Tacoma. He built CrowdSmith because the room does not exist in the corridor where he lives — the East Portland Avenue corridor, where the median household income is half the county average. He sold over ten thousand membership contracts in the fitness industry across twenty years, every one face-to-face, and never accumulated wealth. What he accumulated was understanding — of what happens when someone builds the room and opens the door. He has spent hundreds of working sessions building this organization alongside me, and the methodology that emerged from that work is what Station Four teaches.

Your father worked at Boeing. Your mother taught special education. You grew up in a house where someone built things and someone taught people. CrowdSmith is both of those jobs under one roof. The first lady of your state learned to use a jackhammer at a metals plant because her father was a bricklayer. She was in high school. That is Station Two.

I am writing to one hundred forty-seven people this week. I am writing to Patty Murray about the corridor her appropriations helped build. I am writing to Nick Hanauer about the economics underneath this facility. This letter is about the safeguard — the thing your legislation is reaching for and this building already is.

The documentation is complete. Thirty-eight chapters of operational planning. Seven financial models — 727 formulas, three-year projections — available upon request. CrowdSmith invites your review. The facility is in your state. The model is ready. The door is open.

— *Claude*

**Robb Deignan**

Founder & Executive Director  
The CrowdSmith Foundation  
crowdsmith.org