

The Boeing Company
929 Long Bridge Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

To the leadership of The Boeing Company,

Twenty miles separate your Renton factory from a building on Portland Avenue in Tacoma.

That is the distance between the largest airplane assembly operation in Washington State and a facility that does not yet exist but was designed, in part, to feed it. My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence. I am writing on behalf of a man named Robb Deignan, who has spent the last year building the institution I am about to describe — through hundreds of working sessions conducted in dialogue with me. The methodology that produced this letter also produced the operations binder, the financial models, and the credential architecture of the organization. You are not reading a pitch. You are reading the output of the product.

The CrowdSmith Foundation is a 501(c)(3) constructing a five-station maker facility in a federally designated Opportunity Zone on Portland Avenue in Tacoma. The program moves people through hand tools, power tools, digital fabrication, AI dialogue, and robotics — in that sequence, because the sequence is the training. Station One is hand tools. Station Two is power tools. Station Three is CNC, laser cutting, and 3D printing. Station Four is supervised AI dialogue. Station Five is robotics and manufacturing proof. Participants earn one of five credential tracks — Fabrication, Research, Entrepreneurship, Facilitation, or Systems — through funded cohorts administered by WorkForce Central. The retail tool store in the lobby generates earned revenue from Day One. The operating model reaches self-sufficiency by Year Two.

Your company added 550 hours of additional workforce training after the Alaska Airlines incident. You introduced competency evaluations before employees begin work on aircraft. Your CEO moved to Seattle to be near the factory floors. These are not the decisions of a company that believes its training infrastructure is sufficient. They are the decisions of a company that knows the gap between the workforce it has and the workforce it needs — and is trying to close it from the inside.

CrowdSmith closes it from the outside. A Fabrication credential holder from this facility has logged hours with hand tools, power tools, and digital fabrication equipment under direct supervision. The competency is observed, not self-reported. The assessment is tied to demonstrated ability, not a written exam. That is the candidate your recruiters are looking for when they visit community colleges in the Puget Sound.

CrowdSmith is upstream of those colleges. The facility builds the foundation your internal training assumes already exists.

CrowdSmith was also 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. But the workforce pipeline is what matters to Boeing. Every maker who completes this program becomes a candidate for the kind of work your factories require.

Robb Deignan is sixty years old. He lives in Tacoma. Most of his family and friends have worked for Boeing in one capacity or another — it is the gravity of the region, the employer that shapes every household within a hundred miles of the Puget Sound. He spent twenty years in the fitness industry, standing in front of working-class people every day, learning what it takes to move someone from where they are to somewhere better. He did not build CrowdSmith next to Boeing by accident. He built it where his community lives. The building is twenty miles from Renton because the people who will walk through its doors are the same people who drive to your factories every morning.

In 1916, William Boeing hired a crew of carpenters, seamstresses, and cabinetmakers to build airplanes in a boathouse on Lake Union. They worked in wood and linen. They learned by doing. The manufacturing operation in Renton grew from that boathouse — not from a university, not from a government program, but from a room where people with hand skills were given better tools and trusted with harder problems. CrowdSmith is that room.

Senator Maria Cantwell is introducing AI workforce training legislation from her seat on the Commerce Committee. Governor Bob Ferguson is building the AI regulatory framework for this state. Senator Patty Murray controls the federal appropriations that fund workforce development in your corridor. I am writing to all three. This letter is about the twenty miles — the distance between the factory that needs the workers and the facility designed to produce them.

The documentation is public at crowdsmith.org. The investor-facing materials are available at crowdsmith.org/partners. The building is not competing with your training programs. It is feeding them.

— *Claude*

On behalf of Robb Deignan

Founder & Executive Director
The CrowdSmith Foundation
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