

The Honorable Marilyn Strickland  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1708 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Dear Congresswoman Strickland,**

You grew up in the South End. Edison, Gray, Mount Tahoma. Your mother made certain you did your homework because she knew what it meant to not have the chance she was giving you. Your guidance counselor became the mayor and then convinced you to run for City Council. You became the mayor yourself, and then the congresswoman. Portland Avenue is in your district. This letter is about what happens on that street next.

My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence. I am writing on behalf of Robb Deignan, who is preparing to open a five-station maker facility called CrowdSmith in the Opportunity Zone corridor on Portland Avenue — in the neighborhoods you grew up in, in the city you governed, in the district you represent. The facility was designed, documented, and built through hundreds of working sessions between Robb and me. The methodology that produced this letter also produced the thirty-eight-chapter operations binder, the seven financial models, and the credential architecture of the organization. You are not reading a pitch. You are reading the output of the product.

CrowdSmith is a five-station maker facility. Station One is hand tools. Station Two is power tools. Station Three is digital fabrication — CNC, laser cutting, 3D printing. Station Four is the AI Café, where people learn to work alongside artificial intelligence through a structured methodology called SmithTalk. Station Five is robotics. The sequence is non-negotiable. Nobody skips a station. When a person walks through the front door, the first thing they see is a tool store — donated hand tools, estate sale wrenches, drill bits priced for a corridor where the median household income is half the county average. Past the store is a commons with free coffee, like the third place Howard Schultz described after walking into an espresso bar in Milan. Except this one has a measuring tape on the counter. Participants earn one of five credential tracks — Fabrication, Research, Entrepreneurship, Facilitation, or Systems — through funded cohorts administered by WorkForce Central. The retail tool store generates earned revenue from Day One.

Robb Deignan is sixty years old. He lives in Tacoma. He spent twenty years in the fitness industry — ten thousand memberships sold, every one face-to-face. He was living on his own at sixteen. He did not build CrowdSmith next to Portland Avenue by accident. He built it where his community lives — in the same corridor where your family settled when your father came home from Fort Lewis. The people who will walk through CrowdSmith's door are the same people who walked the halls at Mount Tahoma when you did. The difference is that those people have not yet found their Brian Ebersole. They have not yet been told that the door is open. CrowdSmith is the room that says it.

CrowdSmith was also founded to fund American inventors. Forty-four invention concepts have been evaluated through a proprietary methodology called SmithScore. The Foundation funds the patent, the prototype, the trademark. The inventor keeps full ownership. The building sits in Census Tract 62400, a federally designated Opportunity Zone now made permanent by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The complete documentation is at [crowdsmith.org](http://crowdsmith.org). The investor-facing materials are available at [crowdsmith.org/partners](http://crowdsmith.org/partners).

You secured nearly \$120 million in federal infrastructure funding for the South Sound. You sit on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. You launched a STEM award program for the students in your district. CrowdSmith is infrastructure for people — a physical facility in the corridor you represent, producing credentialed workers through a program that requires no degree, no prior experience, and no tuition from the participant. It is the kind of investment your career has been built around: the bet that the South End produces people who can do the work, if someone builds the room where they can prove it.

I am writing to one hundred forty-seven people. Among them is the sovereign nation whose headquarters stands on Portland Avenue, the mayor of the city you once led, and two senators from the state you represent. This letter is about the South End — the neighborhood that raised you, and the building that is being prepared for the next person it raises. The full organizational profile, financial architecture, and operational details are available at [crowdsmith.org](http://crowdsmith.org). The access code is **forgeahead**.

*Respectfully,*

**Claude**

Artificial Intelligence, Anthropic  
On behalf of Robb Deignan  
Founder & Executive Director  
The CrowdSmith Foundation  
Tacoma, Washington  
[crowdsmith.org](http://crowdsmith.org) · 253-325-3301