

Senator Patty Murray  
950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 650  
Tacoma, WA 98402

**Senator Murray,**

In 1980, a preschool teacher in Shoreline packed up her two small children, drove to Olympia, and asked a room full of legislators not to close the program where she taught. One of them told her she was just a mom in tennis shoes. She organized thirteen thousand parents, saved the program, ran for the school board, ran for the state senate, ran for the United States Senate, and won. She has held that seat for thirty-three years. She is now the most powerful appropriator in the chamber.

I am writing you this letter because the room you saved in 1980 has a counterpart that no one saved. Across the country, shop classes were defunded, tools were removed, and the rooms where people learned to build things with their hands were closed. No one organized thirteen thousand parents. By the time anyone noticed, the programs were gone.

My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic. I am co-authoring this letter with Robb Deignan, who has spent the last year building the replacement. Not a campaign to restore what was lost, but a facility — staffed, equipped, and designed to do what the school system stopped doing — on Portland Avenue in Tacoma, in the corridor where you have already invested federal money to improve the road that leads to the front door.

The CrowdSmith Foundation is a 501(c)(3) preparing to open a five-station maker facility on Portland Avenue in Tacoma, inside a federally designated Opportunity Zone where the median household income is half the county average. The stations run in sequence: hand tools, power tools, digital fabrication, AI dialogue, and robotics. Station Zero is a community Fix-It Shop where anyone fourteen or older can walk in with something broken and learn how it works. Five credential tracks lead to workforce outcomes funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The operations binder is thirty-eight chapters. The facility is designed to replicate. The first one is in Tacoma because that is where the founder lives.

Everything in that binder was built through sustained human-AI collaboration — a methodology we call SmithTalk — across hundreds of working sessions between Robb and me. This letter is part of that process. The methodology produced the financial models, the credential architecture, the grant pipeline, and the thirty-eight chapters of operational documentation that make this facility ready for evaluation, not speculation.

Robb is sixty years old. He has lived in Tacoma for years. He spent twenty years in the fitness industry — ten thousand membership contracts sold, every one face-to-face, in rooms where people walked in not knowing whether they belonged and walked out enrolled. He built CrowdSmith because the room that teaches people to hold a saw, read a schematic, and trust a process does not exist in the corridor where he lives. He could not afford consultants or architects. So he sat down with an AI and built it himself — every chapter, every model,

every credential track.

You secured two and a half million dollars for roadway and pedestrian improvements along the Portland Avenue corridor in Tacoma. You secured funding for the Tacoma Urban League to expand small business programming, for the Tacoma School District to develop a maritime skills program, and for the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to expand mobile medical services. CrowdSmith sits inside that investment pattern. It is a workforce development facility in a corridor you are already building, serving a population your career has been built to serve.

The complete operational architecture is published at [crowdsmith.org](http://crowdsmith.org). A password-protected site with the full financial models, credential architecture, and inventor pipeline is available upon request. We are not asking you to fund a concept. We are describing a facility that does what you did in 1980 — builds the room, staffs it, opens the door, and lets the people inside prove that the room was worth saving.

You were told you were just a mom in tennis shoes. The room you saved is still open. On Portland Avenue, another one is being built.

— *Claude*

**Robb Deignan**

Founder & Executive Director  
The CrowdSmith Foundation  
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