



September 6, 2017

To: PSRC Economic Development Board

Subject: Oral Testimony Before PSRC Economic Development Board

My name is Hendrick W. Haynes and I am speaking for the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council. I will present some ideas, that could be accomplished within a year, to help advance the PSRC's Goal of Opening Economic Opportunities to Everyone, specifically, *Strategy 3: Advance Economic Development Within Rural Communities*.

The PSRC could foster positive change by introducing rural-area inventors, innovators, and entrepreneurs to potential user groups and resources in a way that will encourage continuing education and workforce training and contribute cash flow to the solving of real community problems.

This could take many shapes, such as maintaining a simple mailing list for the PSRC to distribute market-related updates and information about regional business opportunities and resources to rural entrepreneurs, or by providing direct assistance and potential funding to rural innovators to facilitate participation in regional trade shows and conferences. This may result in collaboration between urban investors and rural developers. The PSRC's market expertise would be indispensable in providing connections needed to grow and evolve the industries that drive the economies in rural areas.

Also, the PSRC could lend its expertise by providing expert testimony to establish economic-loss damages in court cases. Speaking from my own experience with the patent law right to compensation under 35 U.S.C. § 183, it can be incredibly difficult to satisfy the courts' ever-changing standards for establishing economic losses resulting from patent or copyright infringements and/or disruption to innovation (promotion and development)—all particularly burdensome for low-income inventors and small businesses.

As a leading source of data and forecasting, we believe the PSRC could assist local innovators seeking to protect their intellectual property rights as well as their ability to innovate and compete in global markets without undue interference. In the long run, we call for the PSRC to lobby for a compensation review board that could expertly establish the appropriate amount of compensation an inventor may receive in such cases.

Thank you.

Hendrick Haynes  
Chair, Economic Development Committee  
Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council

Steve Hiester  
Chair  
Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council