THE NORTHWEST
SEAPORT ALLIANCE
SEATTLE + TACOMA
nwseaportalliance.com

May 7, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590-7202

RE: Letter of Commitment for FY24 PIDP - *Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project*

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am very pleased to submit this application from the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), the Public Entity Joint Venture partnership between the ports of Seattle and Tacoma, to the 2024 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). The *Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project* is a set of improvements to Pierce County Terminal at the Port of Tacoma that will make the cargo terminal more energy efficient, expand reefer capacity, and modernize a transfer zone, improving resiliency and allowing the terminal to operate more cost-effectively. The Project supports the PIDP program's goals of improving the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of goods into, out of, around, and within the Port.

Benefits of the Project are considerable:

- Improves energy efficiency at Pierce County Terminal by converting the lighting system to LED lights, reducing electrical consumption costs and improving lighting efficiency throughout the terminal.

- Expands refrigerated container capacity by adding the electrical plugs needed to allow import and export containers to be received, and additional empty containers to be prepared simultaneously.

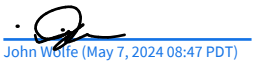
- The project directly supports export of agricultural products from rural Eastern Washington and other states including Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Iowa, states whose exporters regularly depend on NWSA facilities as their fastest and most cost-effective option for time-sensitive agricultural products such as apples, potatoes, and cherries.

• Expands capacity and increases efficiency at the NWSA, increasing access to international markets for U.S. farmers, manufacturers, and consumers.

As a joint venture between the Ports of Tacoma and Seattle, the NWSA provides funds from operations to the two ports. The two ports use the funds from the NWSA operations, along with cash on hand, cash from other home port operations, and, if necessary, cash from revenue or tax secured bonds, to fund the NWSA's capital commitments. As a sign of our dedication to the success of the proposed $23,294,000 *Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project*, the NWSA, through its two Joint Venture partners, commits to a cost share of $11,647,000 —a figure representing 50% of total eligible project costs subject to NWSA board approval.

If this project is awarded PIDP funding, the NWSA guarantees the availability of the staff and resources necessary to complete the activities described in the application. The NWSA is exceptionally well qualified to lead the proposed activities. The NWSA team is capable not only of planning such an ambitious and important project, but also of executing it in a timely, cost-effective manner. For these reasons and more, I urge you to fund the *Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project*. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



John Wolfe (May 7, 2024 08:47 PDT)

John Wolfe, Chief Executive Officer
Northwest Seaport Alliance
One Sitcum Way
Tacoma, Washington 98421