TERMINAL SERVICES
EVERPORT

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Subject: Letter of Support, *Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project*

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Everport Terminal Services Inc. ("Everport Terminal"), a partner of The Northwest Seaport Alliance ("NWSA") is excited to support the NWSA's application to the 2024 Port Infrastructure Development Program ("PIDP"). Everport Terminal has had a long and successful history in the gateway and has been under a Lease and Operation Agreement with NWSA, as licensee/agent for the Port of Tacoma, at the Pierce County Terminal ("PCT") since January 2003. During its 20-plus year history, Everport Terminal has invested millions of dollars in equipment and infrastructure to serve both the state of Washington and the broader U.S. economy.

We fully support the proposed upgrades and improvements to enhance terminal operations as efficiently as possible in order to maintain the NWSA's status as the premier, world-class container trade gateway on the west coast. Many agricultural producers, manufacturers, and consumers rely on the ports of Tacoma and Seattle for access to international markets and will benefit greatly from the *Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project*. As a marine terminal operator, Everport Terminal is fully committed to the success of this project.

The infrastructure investments proposed in this grant application will improve safety, operational efficiency, and reliability of the PCT I operations. We are submitting this Letter of Support as a sign of strength of our public-private partnership with the NWSA and our collective commitment to the success of this project. This commitment is predicated on a mutually beneficial agreement which will reflect market conditions at the time of this grant award.

For the above 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.

Sincerely,

Ron Neal
President