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# Congress of the United States
## House of Representatives

May 2, 2024

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

Subject: Support for NWSA Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to request your full consideration of the Northwest Seaport Alliance's (NWSA) application for the Fiscal Year 2024 U.S. Department of Transportation Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant for its Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project.

The Project will support 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. The proposed set of improvements to Pierce County Terminal in the NWSA's South Harbor will make the cargo terminal more energy efficient, expand capacity for refrigerated containers, and modernize the transfer zone to allow the terminal to operate more cost-effectively.

Expanding refrigerated capacity at the terminal will benefit Northwest agricultural exporters, who have weathered several difficult years of supply chain upheaval. The Project will increase the competitiveness of exports and reduce costs to U.S. farmers, ranchers, and other producers in getting their goods to international markets.

The Project will also allow the NWSA to advance its Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy goal of eliminating seaport-related emissions by 2050. The NWSA marine cargo operations currently support 58,400 jobs and more than $4 billion in labor income across the Washington state economy. Agricultural producers in my District depend on the NWSA as their fastest and most cost-effective option for shipping price-sensitive agricultural products such as hay, apples, and potatoes.

For these reasons I urge your full and fair consideration of the Port's application to the PIDP grant program.

Sincerely,

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress, WA08