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Washington State Senate

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May 7, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am proud to support The Northwest Seaport Alliance's (NWSA) application titled *Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project* for the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2024 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) funding opportunity.

As a member of the Senate Transportation Committee and a representative of the 30th LD, I understand the importance of supporting the Ports. The 30th LD abuts Pierce County and many of my constituents have deep familial and economic ties to the port. Supporting Port infrastructure and development isn't just about benefiting one area, it's about bolstering the interconnected network that sustains communities across our state. When ports thrive, it uplifts industries, creates jobs, and fosters economic growth that reverberates throughout the entire region.

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 Project is a set of improvements to Pierce County Terminal in the NWSA's South Harbor that 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.

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.**

I strongly endorse this project as a next step in making a key U.S. trade gateway more efficient and improving our region's competitiveness with Canadian seaports.

I urge you to fully fund the NWSA's application to the PIDP grant program.

Sincerely,

Claire Wilson
Senator, 30th LD
(she/her/hers)
Assistant Deputy Whip
Chair, Human Services/Vice Chair, EL/K12/Transportation /Rules Committees
Washington State Senate