DUWAMISH RIVER
COMMUNITY COALITION

Elevating the voices of those impacted by the Duwamish River pollution and other environmental injustices to advocate for a clean, healthy, and equitable environment for people and wildlife. Promoting place-keeping and prioritizing community capacity and resilience.

May 28, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

On behalf of the Duwamish River Community Coalition (DRCC), I am pleased to share our strong support for the joint "Accelerating Zero-Emission Technology Deployment at Puget Sound Ports" application by The Northwest Seaport Alliance, Port of Seattle, and Port of Tacoma to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Ports Program (CPP) Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition.

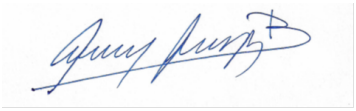
These ports have committed to phasing out all emissions from seaport activities by 2050 or sooner. CPP offers an unprecedented opportunity to intensify this work and to accelerate progress toward a "tipping point" in the effort to fully decarbonize seaport operations in the Puget Sound region. The ports' proposal prioritizes the top three sources of seaport-related pollution in our region – vessels, cargo-handling equipment, and drayage trucks – as well as expanded community engagement programming. The high-impact suite of proposed projects and programs – from cargo to cruise to commercial fishing and more – will:

- Significantly reduce air and climate pollution from maritime activities in the Puget Sound region, especially in disadvantaged communities located near port terminals and freight corridors.
- Deliver healthier air for near-port residents as well as the tens of thousands of people who work on or near port facilities.
- Create, preserve, and improve the quality of thousands of port-related jobs – from dock workers to vessel-operators and truckers, while creating new opportunities in the clean energy economy.
- Strengthen the ports' capacity to meaningfully engage and partner with near-port communities and other stakeholders.
- Bolster the ports' role as catalysts of large-scale maritime decarbonization and sustainability transition – not only at their own facilities but across the broader maritime and freight industries locally, nationally, and globally.

As a near-port community, we are disproportionately burdened by diesel pollution from drayage trucking and heavy-duty vehicles that drive through our community. This creates health disparities such as higher rates of heart disease, childhood asthma, and a thirteen-year lower life expectancy when compared to other areas of the city. This grant will support critical electrification work that will improve the health of overburdened communities like ours and help create a clean, healthy, and equitable environment. We look forward to providing input on ways to create infrastructure that will benefit our communities using valuable insight we have garnered over the past twenty years doing community engagement and advocacy on behalf of our most vulnerable communities. This grant will make it possible for us to do this meaningful work as we create a greener future.

The ports' proposal is transformative for our region and will help drive progress toward emissions reductions in one of the hardest to decarbonize industries. DRCC urges the EPA to support this joint proposal.

Sincerely,



Paulina López
Executive Director
Duwamish River Community Coalition

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