STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

May 21, 2024

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

RE: Support for the Northwest Seaport Alliance and Ports of Seattle and Tacoma's Clean Ports Program Application

Dear Administrator Regan:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), Port of Seattle, and Port of Tacoma application as part of the Clean Ports Program (CPP) Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition, under Funding Opportunity EPA-R-OAR-CPP-24-04.

Washington state is a world leader in advancing the policies necessary to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure an equitable transition to a clean energy economy. In 2019, as part of my climate package, the Washington State Legislature passed the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), requiring all electric utilities in Washington to be greenhouse gas neutral by 2030 and serve 100 percent non-emitting electricity by 2045. [1] In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), a cap and invest program that aims to reduce Washington's greenhouse gas emissions by 95 percent by 2050.[2] In line with President Biden's Justice40 initiative, the CCA requires at least 45 percent of the funds to be invested in projects benefitting overburdened and tribal communities. In 2022, Washington state adopted California's Advanced Clean Truck rules to reduce on-road diesel pollution from medium- and heavy-duty trucks, including drayage trucks, which often idle in and around ports.

The Northwest Seaport Alliance, Port of Seattle, and Port of Tacoma have committed to phasing out all emissions from seaport activities by 2050 or sooner. The Clean Ports Program offers an unprecedented opportunity to intensify this work and to accelerate progress to fully decarbonize seaport operations in the Puget Sound region. This joint proposal prioritizes the top three sources

[1] https://www.utc.wa.gov/regulated-industries/utilities/energy/conservation-and-renewable-energy-overview/clean-energy-transformation-act
[2] https://ecology.wa.gov/air-climate/climate-commitment-act

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 cover a wide variety of vessels, including cargo, cruise, and commercial fishing vessels. These programs 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, as well as the tens of thousands of people who work on or near port facilities. A key element to this application is strengthening the ports' capacity to meaningfully engage and partner with near-port communities and other stakeholders. Additionally, proposed projects will 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.

The Clean Ports Program presents Washington state with an unprecedented opportunity to further achieve our climate goals and policies. In addition to the nation-leading laws and policies mentioned above, Washington state has made significant investments to reduce emissions at ports and improve air quality for surrounding communities. Since 2018, the state has invested approximately $34 million for shore power, $5 million for zero-emission locomotives, $5 million for reefer plugs and $108 million for electric trucks and charging infrastructure. This proposal leverages investments the state has already made to further scale the impact and reach of federal funding.

Washington state is proud to be a world leader in addressing climate change and we look forward to working with the Environmental Protection Agency and the ports to aid them in implementing the Clean Ports Program.

If you would like additional information or have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact my Senior Climate Advisor, Anna Lising, at (360) 870-8671 or anna.lising@gov.wa.gov.

Very truly yours,



Jay Inslee
Governor