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 Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), I write in strong support of 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.

PNWA has over 150 members, including ports, barge companies, steamship operators, grain elevator operators, agricultural producers, electric utilities, irrigation districts, and union labor throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Our association supports projects to advance and protect the region's navigation infrastructure, freight mobility, economic health, and the environment. We support the region's multi-modal transportation system, which provides safe, efficient, and reliable links to competitive domestic and world markets. The Northwest Seaport Alliance is one of our valued members.

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.

The ports' proposal is transformative for our region and will help drive progress toward emissions reductions in one of the hardest to decarbonize industries. PNWA appreciates the EPA's full and fair consideration of this joint proposal.

Sincerely,

Neil Maunu
Executive Director
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association

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