TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

3628 South 35th Street

Tacoma, Washington 98409-3192

May 28, 2024

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

Dear Administrator Regan:

I am pleased to share Tacoma Public Utilities' (TPU) 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 no later than 2050 . CPP offers an unprecedented opportunity to enhance and expedite progress toward fully decarbonizing 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 – while also expanding community engagement programming. The high-impact suite of proposed projects and programs, including cargo and cruise operations to commercial fishing and beyond – 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.

TPU is wholly owned by the City of Tacoma and provides electric, drinking water, and short-line rail services to more than 270,000 customers. The City of Tacoma's 2030 Climate Action Plan calls for transformative action to address the climate emergency. Tacoma's historically underserved communities, including frontline communities of color and low-income neighborhoods have been disproportionately impacted by climate change. This investment will enhance community resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, supporting our stated climate pledge.

The ports' proposal is transformative for our region and will significantly advance emissions reductions in one of the most challenging industries to decarbonize . TPU urges the EPA to support this joint proposal.

Sincerely,

LaTasha Wortham
Director of Customer Experience and External Affairs

Tacoma Public Utilities