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 WorkForce Central, I am pleased to share our enthusiastic 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.

WorkForce Central is the backbone organization facilitating our regional workforce development green economy plan. Through a robust workforce analysis coupled with community co-design efforts over the last two years, our network of committed workforce training and support providers have significantly increased capacity to support career pathways directly tied to the Puget Sound Ports' efforts toward zero-emissions. Through robust apprenticeship and technical training pathways, we're aligning labor and our technical high schools and colleges to actualize an ecosystem of supports for workers entering these fields across industries. We stand with the ports in their efforts to transform our region into one that prioritizes green jobs and pathways through their zero-emission framework.

These ports have committed to phasing out all emissions from regional 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 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. WorkForce Central strongly urges the EPA to

support this joint proposal. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Katie Condit,
Chief Executive Officer