WASHINGTON MARITIME FEDERATION

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for NWSA Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Washington Maritime Federation (WMF), a statewide organization representing Washington State's maritime industry, I am writing to express WMFs support for the 2024 U.S. Department of Transportation Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant application submitted by The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) for its *Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project.*

The Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project will support the PIDP's goals of improving the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of goods into, out of, around, and within the Port. The Project is comprised of a set of improvements to Pierce County Terminal in the NWSA's South Harbor that will make the cargo terminal more energy efficient, expand capacity for refrigerated containers, and modernize the transfer zone to allow the terminal to operate more cost-effectively.

Expanding refrigerated capacity at the terminal will benefit Northwest agricultural exporters, who have weathered several difficult years of supply chain upheaval. The Project will increase the competitiveness of exports and reduce costs to U.S. farmers, ranchers, and other producers in getting their goods to international markets.

The Project will also allow the NWSA to advance its Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy goal of eliminating seaport-related emissions by 2050. The NWSA marine cargo operations currently support 58,400 jobs and more than $4 billion in labor income across the Washington state economy.

WMF strongly endorses this project as a next step in making a key U.S. trade gateway more efficient and improving our region's competitiveness with Canadian seaports.

We urge you to fully fund the NWSA's application to the PIDP grant program.

Sincerely,

Chad See
Board President, Washington Maritime Federation
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