PMSA
PACIFIC MERCHANT SHIPPING ASSOCIATION

April 30, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the members of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA) I am writing in support of The Northwest Seaport Alliance's (NWSA) application titled *Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project* for the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2024 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) funding opportunity. PMSA represents marine terminal operators, vessel lines, and others involved in the West Coast trade community.

The Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project will support the PIDP program'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 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.**

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jordan Royer
VP for External Affairs