April 26, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), I write in strong 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.

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.

The 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.**

PNWA supports 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 and supply chains. PNWA appreciates your full and fair consideration to fully fund the NWSA's application to the PIDP grant program.

Sincerely,

Neil Maunu
Executive Director
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association

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