May 7, 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 Washington Retail Association and its members we would like to offer our 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.

Retailers are one of the port's largest customers, importing billions of dollars in products destined for Washington stores and around the country.

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.

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.

We strongly endorse 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.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Renée Sunde

President/CEO

Washington Retail Association