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May 11, 2022

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

Subject: Support for the NWSA Terminal 5 Export, Expansion and Emission
Reduction Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Washington Trucking Associations (WTA) supports the 2022 U.S. Department of Transportation Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant application submitted by The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) for its Terminal 5 Export, Expansion and Emission Reduction Project. The reconfiguration of the truck gate complex and yard expansion will allow for a more efficient flow of trucks, better utilization of driver's limited time, and a reduction in emissions.

WTA is supported by member companies who range in size from small, single truck operators to Fortune 500 companies, as well as the businesses that provide them with products and services. Our members play a key role in deciding what issues we focus on, making WTA highly engaged with the needs and perspectives of the trucking community of Washington State. Trucking is in the vanguard of the supply chain, often seeing and feeling the impact of changes large and small far before others.

Our members frequently experience a lack of queuing space at T-5. This creates operational hardships and commonly leads to additional costs for the movement of goods. The construction of an expanded queuing area will permit drivers to use their time more effectively and help the terminal operator increase cargo velocity.

Drivers hauling export containers have struggled for many years with shifting ERDs (earliest receiving date) and, often, a lack of receiving space. Over the past several years, changes in the containerized cargo market have exacerbated the challenges. Six acres of additional container yard space specifically for exports will have significant positive impact for truck drivers and exporters. Exports historically have been a crucial component in balancing the gateway for fast and efficient cargo movement. Further, an additional six acres will provide a buffer against volatile vessel schedules.

The proposed improvements by Northwest Seaport Alliance are necessary with a positive significant impact on 3,600 plus active truck drivers and 662 companies servicing the gateway and Terminal 5. Given the need and the significant positive impact we strongly urge you to consider the 2022 U.S. Department of Transportation PIDP grant application submitted by NWSA for its Terminal 5 Export, Expansion and Emission Reduction Project. My team is available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheri Call". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sheri Call President/CEO

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