



Celebrating 100 years serving Clallam County

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February 27, 2024

Michael Fong
Director
Washington State Department of Commerce
1011 Plum Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Accelerating Washington State's Climate Commitments: A Bold & Inclusive Path to Net Zero Emissions

Dear Director Fong:

The Port of Port Angeles (Port) is excited to partner with the Washington Department of Commerce on applying to EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program, *Accelerating Washington State's Climate Commitments: A Bold & Inclusive Path to Net Zero*.

As a CPRG project lead, the Port is fully committed to this application's goal of implementing ambitious, scalable measures to achieve significant community benefits and reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We are dedicated to being a strong partner and advocate for GHG reductions in alignment with Washington State's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP).

Today, the transportation sector is Washington's largest source of GHG emissions. According to the Washington State Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, half of all transportation emissions come from on-road gasoline and diesel vehicles, including freight traffic.

Truck-related emissions are acutely felt on the Olympic Peninsula, a geographically isolated and mountainous region home to low-income, rural communities. US 101, the only highway connecting the Peninsula with the rest of Western Washington, is a major freight corridor that runs directly through neighborhoods and downtowns. While the area's terrain makes freight travel difficult, easy water access makes Port Angeles ideal for short- and long-haul freight barging to and from other ports across the West Coast.

Barging is a highly efficient form of transportation that moves goods in bulk, reducing emissions per unit of cargo. Barges, which lack engines and do not produce emissions, are pulled between locations by powerful tugboats. While tugboats emit carbon, they emit far less than the trucks needed to haul equivalent cargo loads. In addition, fully electric tugs are entering the market, opening the door to zero-emission freight barging.

In 2023, the Port began a successful barging operation between Port Angeles and Marysville, WA. In the first year, this operation is estimated to have reduced GHG emissions by 73%, and truck vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by over 740,000 miles compared to the baseline trucking scenario.

2023's operations only scratched the surface of emission reductions made possible by water transportation. Through CPRG, the Port will advance the adoption of lower-carbon barging as an alternative to trucking by:

- Purchasing a cargo barge to increase regional capacity for water-based freight movement.
- Purchasing a mobile barge loading facility to mitigate tidal limitations on loading/unloading activities.

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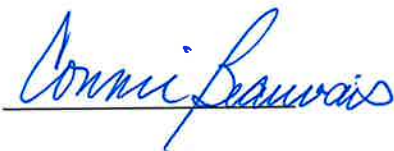
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- Establish and implement a minimum revenue guarantee program for tug and barge operators in the Puget Sound area to increase the availability and reliability of barge service in the region.

The Port is ready to expand on its successful barging program and help local industries switch to lower-carbon water transport. We also hope this work will be used as a model and expanded to other small Ports in the region, which could further reduce carbon emissions across Washington.

The Washington State Department of Commerce's CPRG Implementation Grant application presents bold new opportunities to transform pollution-heavy industries while empowering local economies to thrive and provide family-wage jobs. For these reasons, the Port is committed to partnering with the Washington State Department of Commerce on its CPRG Implementation Grant. We strongly urge consideration of this application to accelerate the state's implementation of its ambitious climate goals.

Sincerely,



Connie Beauvais
Commissioner
Port of Port Angeles



Steven Burke
Commissioner
Port of Port Angeles



Colleen McAleer
Commissioner
Port of Port Angeles

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