



SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES

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March 20, 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:

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) strongly supports the Port of Port Angeles (Port) and Washington Department of Commerce on its application to EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application.

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is a third-generation family-owned company based in Anderson, California that employs over 6,000 employees nationwide and operates a combined 16 sawmills in California, Oregon, & Washington. Of those 16 sawmills, four of them are located in Washington. The northern most sawmill in Washington employs over 200 people in Skagit County. This sawmill transports Douglas-fir and western hemlock logs from the Olympic Peninsula region, and in 2023 SPI transported 49 barge loads of logs across the Puget Sound. The ability to transport logs from the Olympic Peninsula to our facility in Skagit County is key to our operations.

Today, the transportation sector – including freight transportation – is Washington's largest source of emissions. The Port's plan to increase barging traffic in the Puget Sound will provide the cargo transportation options that mills across the region need, all while working to lower associated carbon emissions. Barging is a highly efficient form of transportation that moves goods in bulk, reducing emissions per unit and lowering overall emissions compared to trucking.

If the Port is successful in securing grant funds to purchase barges and offer barging stipends, SPI could potentially increase its use of water-based shipping to transport logs from the Peninsula to our facility in Skagit County. We are excited to have the opportunity to participate in an industry shift toward cleaner practices that can create environmental and health benefits for multiple communities in the region.

The Port and Washington State Department of Commerce's CPRG Implementation Grant application presents a path toward transforming the pollutant-heavy transportation industry while empowering local industries to thrive and provide family-wage jobs. For these reasons, SPI urges strong consideration of this application to accelerate the state's implementation of its ambitious climate goals.

Sincerely,

Adam Ellsworth
Log Procurement Manager
Sierra Pacific Industries
Burlington Division