

# MARITIME 2018 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



# **PRIORITY AGENDA ITEMS**

#### Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) Reform and Funding

Continue efforts to reform the HMT to ensure US tax policy does not disadvantage US ports and to provide greater equity for HMT donor ports. Support \$50 million appropriation for the "donor port" HMT rebate program.

# Fishing Fleet Modernization

Reform NOAA's Fisheries Finance Program to remove prohibitions on loans and loan guarantees for the construction of fishing vessels while also including safeguards that prevent overfishing. Support other policies and programs that improve access to financing to facilitate modernization of the North Pacific fleet.

# Seattle Harbor Deepening

Support authorization and appropriation for design and construction to deepen the federal channels serving Seattle container terminals.

# Hiram M. Chittenden Locks Funding:

Support funding for continued federal operation and maintenance of the locks, as well as additional funding for priority, non-routine maintenance like the filling culvert valve replacement.

#### Terminal 5 Modernization Project:

Secure federal funding for the Terminal 5 Modernization Project to meet changing container industry requirements, ensure the long-term competitiveness of the gateway and meet our environmental and community goals.

# • National Freight Policy and Funding

Continue to engage key partners at the national level to implement and fund a strengthened national multimodal freight strategy and related grant programs, including the TIGER Discretionary Grant program.

#### • Safe and Efficient Cargo Screening:

Support adequate Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) staffing levels to ensure efficient movement of cargo through the Puget Sound gateway.

#### Welcoming and Competitive Immigration Policies

Support permanent legal protections for immigrant children currently eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, stay engaged in policy and legal decisions related to immigrants and refugees from countries targeted by the "travel ban" executive order, and be a leading voice on immigration policies that ensure the Port, its partner and its customers have the workforce to succeed in the global economy.

# Puget Sound Restoration

Support increased federal resources for Puget Sound restoration, including appropriations for the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project, the National Estuary Program, the Puget Sound Geographic Program and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

# **ADDITIONAL PRIORITY ISSUE AREAS**

# • Welcoming and Competitive Trade Policies

Advocate for trade policies that open new markets and level playing fields for Washington employers and others who use the Port as their international gateway, while creating verifiable, measureable and enforceable standards to protect workers and the environment.

# Thriving and Sustainable Environment

Support authorization and full funding for the EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program. Oppose mining activity and other development proposals in the Bristol Bay watershed that put Bristol Bay fisheries at risk, as well as offshore oil and gas drilling in both state and federal waters off the coastline of Washington state.

#### Jones Act

Maintain limited flexibility to grant waivers from Jones Act regulations in extraordinary cases when domestic shipping capacity is insufficient to respond to a given need and when Puget Sound domestic maritime stakeholders validate that a waiver is necessary to support the vitality of their industry.





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