



July 9, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Seattle Marine Business Coalition (SMBC) is a 501(c)(6) non-profit corporation organized for the following purposes:

- to provide a forum for Seattle maritime businesses to express and advocate ideas regarding the use of shoreline space and waterways in Seattle;
- to promote jobs by encouraging municipal and regional support for maritime businesses requiring access to the sea; and
- to serve as a liaison with public officials in addressing topics impacting the Seattle maritime industry

In turn, we are writing to express our support for The Northwest Seaport Alliance's (NWSA) application for the Fiscal Year 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program for the "Terminal 5 Modernization and Access Improvement Project." BUILD funds will leverage prior infrastructure investments and ensure the NWSA has the ability to handle the future trade volumes that will drive national economic growth.

The NWSA is one of the key trade gateways for the Midwest and an entire swath of the northern U.S. The NWSA currently serves several of the world's largest ocean carriers. In 2016 their annual container volume was 3.6 million TEUs (twenty foot equivalent units) making this gateway the nation's 4th largest container handling region. Terminal 5 is as an integral part of seaport operations. Of all NWSA facilities, Terminal 5 has been identified as the most suitable for modernization to meet future shipping needs with the greatest efficiency at the lowest cost.

From 2007 through July 2017, the NWSA Ports of Seattle and Tacoma have lost 15% of their market share to nearby ports in British Columbia. Canada's federal Asia Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative has invested billions of dollars in their infrastructure over the last ten years. Our region is losing exactly the types of high wage, blue collar jobs so clearly desired in our economy. Modernization of Terminal 5 is the NWSA's answer for retaining and growing our market share and job base, with a multiplying impact that reaches across the maritime industry and broader local economy. Federal assistance in this endeavor is crucial.

In closing, SMBC fully supports the "T-5 Modernization and Access Improvement Project" and respectfully requests that priority be placed on making these improvements. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



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cc: Senator Patty Murray  
Representative Pramila Jayapal  
Governor Jay Inslee  
Representative Gael Tarleton