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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4705

May 15, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Stephen Carmel
Administrator
U.S. Maritime Administrator
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy and Administrator Carmel,

I am writing in support of the Port of Vancouver's application to the Department of Transportation's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant program. The Port of Vancouver is seeking $18 million for its Berth 8 Improvements for Efficient and Safe Cargo Handling project.

Located at the mouth of the Columbia River, the Port of Vancouver is the leader of marine and industrial commerce in southwest Washington. The port transports over 7 million tons of cargo annually, supporting almost 20,000 jobs and $2.9 billion of regional economic value. Vancouver and the communities of Southwest Washington rely on the port for economic development, employment, and connection to global marine trade. However, its outdated foundation and increasing demand continues to deteriorate the aging infrastructure. Constructed over 45 years ago, the Berth 8 dock's outdated design slows down cargo transfers, bottlenecks port efficiency, and poses safety hazards to dock workers. Revitalizing the Port of Vancouver's Berth 8 is a crucial step toward supporting Southwest Washington's growing economy.

If successful, the Port of Vancouver will use grant funding to enhance dock efficiency, safety, and future growth. Funding will strengthen the dock with reinforced polymer to allow for the use of shipping cranes, enhancing port efficiency. A dock apron will also be installed to further increase the efficiency and safety of unloading cargo. This project will create approximately 1,000 jobs and open prospective financial opportunities for the port. Funding for the Port of Vancouver not only strengthens a cornerstone of the regional economy but also fosters future growth and trade in Southwest Washington.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the Port of Vancouver's application to the PIDP grant program.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell

United States Senator