

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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December 3, 2013

Mr. Tom Albro  
Commission President  
Port of Seattle Commission  
2711 Alaskan Way  
Seattle WA, 98121**RE: December 3<sup>rd</sup> briefing – Support for Final Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy 2013 Update.**

Dear Mr. Albro:

I am writing to you to urge that the Port of Seattle Commission adopt the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy (CAS) 2013 Update. As you know, this update establishes new goals, and flexible pathways to attain those goals, that complement and extend the original intent of the 2007 CAS. By adjusting the 2015 goals and establishing new long-term goals for 2020, the updated CAS will guide efforts to reduce the effects of port related diesel exhaust on surrounding communities, and reduce port related green house gases.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has identified diesel fine particles as one of the air pollutants most harmful to public health in Washington State. Because of the heavy concentration of diesel engines and human population at and near ports, cleaning up diesel engines at ports is one of Ecology's top priorities. In addition to the impacts of diesel fine particles on human health, the burning of diesel fuel is a significant source of green house gases and the associated environmental, health and economic consequences of climate change.

Much progress has been made since these efforts began in 2005. The updated CAS builds on this progress and importantly adds the reduction of green house gases as one of its major goals.

Ecology has worked with port staff to analyze emissions, focus priorities, develop projects, lend our technical expertise and provide grant funding for clean diesel projects. Ecology is committed to continuing our partnership in implementing the updated CAS.

I would like to thank the Commissioners and Port staff for all their hard work and commitment to cleaning up the air around ports. There's more work to do and I know we have a devoted and sincere partner in the Port of Seattle. Adopting the updated CAS is essential to continue this important collaborative work.

Sincerely,

Stuart A. Clark, Air Quality Program Manager

CC: Stephanie Jones-Stebbins, Port of Seattle