



**COMMISSION  
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**Item No.** 7b

**BRIEFING ITEM**

**Date of Meeting** October 10, 2017

**DATE:** October 3, 2017

**TO:** Dave Soike, Interim Executive Director

**FROM:** Eric ffitich, State Government Relations Manager, Public Affairs  
Pearse Edwards, Director, Government Relations, Public Affairs

**SUBJECT:** DRAFT State Legislative Agenda for 2018

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Since the end of the 2017 state legislative session in Olympia, Washington, staff from the Government Affairs department has been working with subject-matter experts across the Port, members of the Executive Leadership Team, staff from the Commission office, and the Commissioners themselves to develop a draft legislative agenda for 2018. The policy statements included in this memo, and set for discussion at the October 10, 2017, commission meeting, reflect work that is ongoing at the port, core priorities laid out by our Commission, or high-profile issues on which we may be asked to take a position.

This appearance in public session follows meetings with commissioners and staff to revise and sharpen this agenda, and it remains a living document that is subject to feedback from the commission prior to the potential adoption of the agenda on October 24. Once adopted, Commissioners and staff will meet with state lawmakers in advance of the January 8, 2018, start date for next year's session to share the agenda and discuss priorities for the coming year.

**DRAFT State Legislative Agenda for 2018**

***Priority Agenda Items***

- **Workforce development:** Support proposals to enhance state investments in workforce development in the maritime, manufacturing, and industrial sectors. This may include possible amendments to port statute to clarify the authority of port districts to continue to play a role in workforce development in these sectors.
- **Transportation access to Sea-Tac Airport:** Support funding for a partnership between the Port of Seattle and the Washington State Department of Transportation to conduct a study of State Route 518 to address current and future corridor needs related to increased regional development that will affect transportation demand on that corridor.

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- **Statewide tourism marketing:** Support efforts to establish a statewide tourism marketing program that includes a sustainable means of funding, and ensures that funds collected for tourism marketing are maintained for that explicit use.
- **Land use:** Provide detailed information to legislators and to House and Senate Committees on the current land use issues facing Washington ports, with a specific focus on zoning issues related to the Growth Management Act that may affect port competitiveness. This may include:
  - Proposals that are consistent with, but not limited to, the recommendations from the state legislature’s Spring 2016 Joint Task Force on the Economic Resilience of Maritime and Manufacturing report;
  - Proposals that reflect the “Guiding Principles: Stewardship, Enhancement, and Protection of Maritime and Manufacturing Lands” document that was adopted by the Northwest Seaport Alliance on November 1, 2016; and
  - Any legislative changes that may otherwise impact the efficient functioning of statewide essential public facilities.

#### ***Priority Issue Areas***

- **Quality Jobs and Small Business:**
  - *Quality Jobs:* Support proposals that are consistent with the Port’s focus on bringing quality, sustainable jobs to the region, including through proposals that:
    - Clarify the authority of port districts to pursue creative approaches to workforce, as well as any efforts to expand state-level support for worker training programs in the aviation, maritime, and manufacturing trades.
    - Support career-connected and work-based learning programs that seek to expose middle- and high-school age students to professions in port-related industries.
    - Expand and strengthen state support for apprenticeship programs.
    - Ensure responsible enforcement of labor standards.

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- *Small Business*: Support proposals that seek to provide equity in the workplace for disadvantaged groups, and promote inclusion of small businesses, including disadvantaged, minority, and women owned business enterprises (SMWBEs). This includes:
  - Continued support for the repeal of Initiative 200, and other policy proposals that seek to achieve similar objectives.
  - Support for proposals that provide flexibility in contracting to public owners while ensuring that contracting practices enfranchise SMWBEs.
  - Support proposals that enhance the opportunities for SMWBEs to more effectively compete for small works projects.
  - Support business assistance programs at the state-level that are focused on small business capacity building, and help SMWBEs to compete in the government marketplace.
- **Transportation**
  - Closely monitor and support continued funding of state transportation projects that are critical to Port of Seattle and Northwest Seaport Alliance operations, including the Puget Sound Gateway Program (SR-509/SR-167), the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program, State Route 518, and others.
  - Support proposals that speed the movement of freight and passengers from origin to destination through seaport and airport facilities. This includes investments in freight-related infrastructure based on recommendations from the state’s freight advisory committee and Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board, and consistent with a methodology developed collectively by all members of that committee.
  - Support proposals that allow for creative approaches to infrastructure development and funding, including potential expansion of authority of public owners to partner with private entities, permitted that such proposals do not compromise public infrastructure.
  - Support proposals that clarify and affirm the authority of the Port Commission to control access to port facilities by ground transportation service providers.
  - Support proposals intended to promote aviation safety while maintaining the authority of airport operators to enforce their own rules and regulations at the facilities within their control.

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- Support state actions that promote resilience in the transportation network, and support collaboration with other government agencies, including on issues of climate resilience.
- **Energy and Environment:**
  - Support and advocate for continued state investment in environmental cleanup programs and state-level policies that promote the adoption and implementation of clean energy sources to reduce the state's reliance on fossil fuels and seek to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions. That includes:
    - Programs funded through the Model Toxics Control Act that assist ports in their efforts to promote environmental stewardship and support Washington State's pursuit of a healthier Puget Sound.
    - Work with state and local agencies on development of a statewide mitigation plan for funds from the national Volkswagen settlement. Support efforts that direct funds to regionally significant projects, including projects that result in emissions reductions at airports and seaports across the state.
    - Policies that promote the use of clean energy technology and support a statewide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and that can be implemented in ways: that leverage our state's competitiveness; maintain the efficient operation of essential public facilities such as airports and seaports; and support equity between our business partners.
    - Policies that promote the use of low-carbon fuels for transportation, and otherwise support the continued reduction in the cost of low-carbon energy sources to consumers in the state, including action to spur adoption of aviation biofuels; and allow for electrification of large-scale transportation infrastructure.
    - Support state actions that promote climate change resilience, and support collaboration with other government agencies in this effort, including a focus on resilience within the transportation network.
    - Policies that reduce carbon and air pollution emissions for passengers and employees traveling to and from Port facilities, including promoting efficient transportation improvements, public transit, and low carbon fuels.

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- Tax:
  - Support tax policies at the state level that support the economic health of port-related businesses and activities, including:
    - Policies that promote the efficient movement of freight and support those communities that house the warehousing and distribution infrastructure necessary to enable the Port of Seattle, the Northwest Seaport Alliance, and its partner entities to serve Washington state businesses, including in agriculture, manufacturing, and trade sectors.
    - Policies that reduce the cost of manufacturing activities that support port-related businesses, including businesses that support the efficient functioning of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and that incentivize construction of fishing vessels in Washington state shipyards.

**ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING**

- (1) Presentation slides

**PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS**

November 6, 2016 – The Commission adopted the 2017 State Legislative Agenda

October 25, 2016 – The Commission was briefed on the Draft 2017 State Legislative Agenda