

2023 PORT FEDERAL PRIORITIES

The Port of Seattle is committed to creating a successful, safe, and healthy travel and trade experience, and to serving as a key contributor to regional and statewide economic growth. We are focused on developing more modern, high-tech facilities; better connecting the Puget Sound region to the world; maximizing the environmental sustainability of our operations; and ensuring that our local communities and residents thrive. The federal government can help us achieve this vision by:

1. INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION

Sufficient Infrastructure and Transportation Funding:

Ensure that the Port and its partners have the resources necessary to develop new infrastructure that supports the successful operations of our facilities, regional mobility, and water-based navigation systems. In particular:

- » Support Port grant applications for key infrastructure and transportation systems
- » Maximize Harbor Maintenance Tax appropriations for the “donor port” HMT rebate program, and secure implementation of the HMT reform provisions that were included in the Water Resources Development Act of 2020
- » Increase Passenger Facility Charge flexibility
- » Move forward on Army Corps projects, such as design of the West Waterway portion of the Seattle Harbor Navigation Improvement Project, and design and construction of the Tacoma Harbor Navigation Improvement Project
- » Support funding for continued federal operation and maintenance of the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, as well as additional funding for priority, non-routine maintenance
- » Support flexibility in Buy America and other domestic preference requirements until US manufacturers can achieve the scale needed to meet federal requirements for port equipment, including zero-emissions equipment
- » Support funding for sustainable transportation options, including electric vehicle infrastructure, transit infrastructure and operations, and high-speed rail funding

Efficient and Safe Port Operations: Ensure sufficient federal staffing and other resources to allow for travelers, goods, and workers to operate successfully and safely at Port facilities. In particular:

- » Expedite the transition to non-fluorinated airfield fire-fighting foams
- » Maximize TSA and CBP staffing
- » Limit federal requests for Port funding for federal services, equipment, and facility development

- » Support Terminal 46 planning
- » Support TSA efforts to expand PreCheck, as well as additional technology solutions that maximize security and efficiency
- » Preserve TSA funding for Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) reimbursement grants
- » Improve UAS integration and detection
- » Support UAM/AAM integration into the National Airspace System
- » Support the Jones Act

2. DECARBONIZATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Expanded Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Deployment:

Continue important progress toward the implementation of robust SAF production and use. In particular:

- » Support Port and regional partner grant applications for key SAF infrastructure
- » Ensure clarity and authority for airports to use airport revenue and federal grant funding to support fuel switching, including support for the air quality and carbon reduction benefits of SAF
- » Fully fund federal SAF investments from agencies including the U.S. Departments of Defense (DoD), Agriculture, Energy (DOE) and Transportation (DOT)
- » Advocate for Joint Base Lewis-McChord to be selected for the SAF pilot included in the last National Defense Authorization Act

Maritime Decarbonization: Continue progress toward electrification and decarbonization of maritime operations and infrastructure. In particular:

- » Support Port and regional partner grant applications for key maritime decarbonization investments
- » Support the develop of partnerships with key federal agencies such as State, DOE, DOT and MARAD to support the development of green corridors

- » Support Port efforts to help shape international maritime decarbonization policy, such as at the International Maritime Organization
- » Support additional federal funding for port-specific hydrogen and clean marine fuel infrastructure
- » Fully fund the US Environmental Protection Agency's DERA program
- » Support efforts to location a United States Center for Maritime Innovation in Washington

Puget Sound Restoration: Continue to invest in efforts to restore the Puget Sound, and to facilitate the recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW). In particular:

- » Invest in Puget Sound restoration through existing programs
- » Support Port and regional partner grant applications for key remediation and underwater noise reduction investments
- » Fully staff federal environmental permitting offices
- » Expedite federal environmental permitting processes, including implementation of new rules that allow Ports to support these efforts
- » Support SRKW recovery through investments in key programs
- » Oppose changes by the National Marine Fisheries Service to the process for permitting projects until they are approved through an act of Congress or a formal rulemaking process
- » Invest in kelp and kelp research

3. COMMUNITY & EQUITY

Welcoming Immigration Policies: Support changes that create a welcoming environment for visitors, immigrants, and refugees into our country. In particular:

- » Promote comprehensive immigration reform
- » Support efforts to fully prepare for REAL ID transition
- » Make DACA permanent

Sound Insulation Funding and Aircraft Noise and Emissions Policies: Support additional investments in sound insulation for home and other buildings near airports, and implement policies that address aircraft noise and emissions. In particular:

- » Support Port grant applications for additional sound insulation investments
- » Advocate for changes to federal policies, regulations, and programs that align with local community priorities – as identified by the SEA Stakeholder Advisory Round Table (StART)
- » Support additional research and funding to address indoor air quality near airports, specifically in public schools

Other Equity-Related Policies: Support new policies and regulations that are aligned with the Port's equity, diversity, and inclusion priorities. In particular:

- » Support federal legislation on biometric technology that balances operational needs with protections for privacy, equity, and civil liberties
- » Support funding and partnerships to facilitate the Port's efforts to combat human trafficking
- » Support policing reforms that align with the Port's policing accountability assessment recommendations
- » Address barriers to increased Port spending on community initiatives
- » Support local grant applications for "Reconnecting Communities" funding

4. TRADE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & WORKFORCE

Competitive Trade Policies: Advocate for productive engagement and negotiations that ensure a fair and level playing field for mutually beneficial trade. In particular:

- » Promote trade and lower non-tariff barriers
- » Re-evaluate existing tariffs
- » Support new trade opportunities

Economic & Workforce Development: Invest in job creation and training to ensure widespread prosperity for all of the region's residents. In particular:

- » Support Port and regional partner grant applications for key economic and workforce development investments
- » Support key pieces of legislation that advance the offshore wind industry, particularly to create opportunities for the Pacific Northwest to become a leader in OSW manufacturing, assembly, deployment, and maintenance for BOEM-identified projects
- » Support quality of job improvements for drayage drivers
- » Support the North Pacific fishing fleet
- » Promote tourism

For more information on the Port of Seattle's federal legislative agenda, contact:

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