



## SEATTLE AQUARIUM

1483 Alaskan Way, Pier 59  
Seattle, Washington 98101-2015

206.386.4300  
www.seattleaquarium.org

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August 2, 2013

Mr. Tom Albro  
President, Port of Seattle Commission  
2711 Alaskan Way  
Seattle, WA 98121

RE: Support for Port's approval of up to \$300 million for the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program

Dear President Albro:

I am writing to urge the Port of Seattle Commission to approve the Funding Agreement with the State that allocates up to \$300 million dedicated to the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program, in keeping with the Port's 2010 commitment.

As one of your neighbors to the south on the Waterfront, the Seattle Aquarium shares your interest in the efforts to rebuild the downtown Waterfront as a dynamic public shoreline, a new civic heart for Seattle, and a public asset for the entire Puget Sound region. A major element of that program is the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement which preserves the vital SR99 north-south corridor through Seattle, insuring the continued movement of people and goods which is important to both our organizations.

We envision this revitalized Waterfront with new parks and paths, vibrant public and cultural spaces, places to enjoy views, and a new urban street as an attraction for the thousands of tourists who access the City via the Port's cruise ship business. I understand that the Port expects 188 cruise vessels to call at its terminals this year (bringing nearly \$400 million of economic benefit to the region), and clearly these numbers will only increase in the future as the Waterfront is transformed. Those tourists are a key to the vitality of the Waterfront businesses and we appreciate the Port's efforts in tourism promotion.

The Seattle Aquarium intends to expand and improve along with other exciting revitalization efforts like the extension of the Pike Place Market, the safer and more habitat-friendly rebuilt seawall, better connections from downtown to the water's edge, new public piers on either side of the Aquarium, and a broader sidewalk along the water. The Port's providing its share of the funding for the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement will translate into better public access to the Waterfront for local residents and visitors, while preserving the important connection to the rest of the region's transportation system.

I urge the Port of Seattle Commission to approve this funding on August 6.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Davidson  
President and CEO