



Terry Finn
Executive Director
State Government Affairs

BNSF Railway Company
2454 Occidental Ave. South, Bldg. 1A
Seattle, WA 98134-1451
tel 206.625.6135
fax 206.625.6125
email terry.finn@bnsf.com

August 6, 2013

Seattle Port Commission
2711 Alaskan Way
Seattle, WA 98111

Exhibit <u>C</u>
Port Commission <u>Regular</u>
Meeting of <u>August 6, 2013</u>

Dear Commissioners,

I write to convey BNSF Railway's support of anticipated Commission action to approve the funding agreement for the Viaduct Replacement Project. The Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall are vital for freight mobility for the industrial and manufacturing businesses throughout our state, and for the import and export goods moved through the Port of Seattle.

The viaduct replacement is critical to the Seattle waterfront and Duwamish Manufacturing and Industrial Center and as a counteraction to growing congestion, potential arena development and traffic delay that adversely affect the transfer and movement of goods in the area. Our trains are part of a complicated, constrained transportation network in the Duwamish, and building the tunnel while maintaining surface access to the existing viaduct allows this project to go forward with minimal disruption.

The Port-Rail complex is a hub for import and export goods for the state and must be nurtured to continue its function as an engine of economic growth. We are the proud operators of a tunnel under the Seattle waterfront that has served the state for over 100 years. SR 99 is a critical link that supports freight movement.

We appreciate your support of this project and this needed improvement to Seattle's waterfront. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Executive Director, Government Affairs