



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ray Stephanson
Mayor

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Seattle Port Commissioners:

While Terminal 5 at the Port of Seattle sits vacant awaiting a modernization upgrade in 2018, the Port Commission has an incredible opportunity to reactivate the terminal without impacting construction efforts, to generate much-needed Port revenue to help offset modernization costs, to reduce the costs incurred to Port by holding a large terminal vacant, and to bring hundreds of well-paying, union maritime jobs and millions of dollars in economic impact to the Puget Sound region.

Foss Maritime's proposal for temporary and seasonal moorage of Arctic oil exploration vessels and for potential staging for construction of a liquefied natural gas terminal in British Columbia is perfectly suited to leverage the Puget Sound's many unique assets, support our regional maritime industry and help keep our regional ports competitive in an increasingly competitive global market.

Our region – from the Port of Everett down to the Port of Tacoma – with our highly skilled union workforce, our broad-based maritime services businesses, our deep-water ports and the happy advantage of our geography makes this proposal a slam dunk. The Port of Everett is ready to provide moorage for smaller vessels associated with this project – and I only wish our port had the capacity to accommodate the larger vessels, because my city would love to have more of this business. Moving forward with Foss' proposed project would send the right signal to other potential future business partners – both near and far – that the Puget Sound regional economy as a whole remains a diverse economy that welcomes maritime and industrial trading partners. I would encourage you to think of proposed lease as a short-term real-estate decision with an enormous immediate and long-term regional impact.

Likewise, I would encourage you *not* to think of the proposal as a platform for politics; after all, the Port's business and real-estate decisions should not be subject to political pressures in any event. But a crucial point does need to be made in this particular case. Accepting Foss' proposal will have exactly the same impact on the future of Arctic off-shore drilling as rejecting this proposal will have. Which is to say: *exactly none*. The decision to advance from the exploration stage to the production stage in the Arctic is not a decision to be made or influenced by the Port of Seattle Commission; those are decisions for the federal government, and, ultimately, for Shell. The decision that *is* facing this Commission is whether our region is to realize the well-paying union jobs and significant economic benefits associated with the Foss project, or whether another region is.

On behalf of the many other elected leaders, port officials, labor unions and maritime services businesses up and down the Puget Sound who support Foss' proposed project, I urge you to seize this tremendous opportunity and ensure that our region is the region to realize the significant benefits that it will provide.

Sincerely,


Ray Stephanson, Mayor