

Buenas tardes. My name is Nora Coronado and I serve as a Commissioner for the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs. We are a governor-appointed statewide organization with eleven commissioners. We thank the Port of Seattle for this resolution and are honored to be here today to testify in support of this measure.

3747 8a Welcoming Port Policy
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Our country is a land of immigrants and in Washington state nearly one million Washingtonians, that is one in every seven people in this state – are immigrants. We all know the common sense business case for welcoming immigrants. They are vital to the state’s vibrant economy which encompasses agriculture, aerospace, food processing, timber, construction, health care, technology, tourism and the defense sector – to name just a few.

For the Commission on Hispanic Affairs being welcoming of our immigrant and refugee communities is a moral values case as well. Every immigrant is a human being deserving respect and the opportunity to provide for their family. Research shows that most Mexican immigrants come to the United States with a strong sense of hope and self-determination, and that even when they encounter challenges, they are optimistic that their prospects will be more favorable than they could ever be in their home country (APA, 2012). This is especially true for immigrants from impoverished regions and for whom the new environment offers opportunities for social mobility (Guthey, 2001; Hondagneu-Sotelo, 1994). Immigrants bring diversity, livelihood and

personal experiences that enhance our communities. They are strong and resilient and when barriers are removed, they participate in the cultural diversity and education of our state as a whole. The Commission on Hispanic Affairs will continue to support policies that make this a safe and inclusive state for immigrants and refugees who make Washington their home.

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I thank you again for this opportunity to share my personal views ^{as well as} ~~and~~ those of _{WA ST} the Commission on Hispanic Affairs.