

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION

45
46 The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been widespread. The likely need for
47 ongoing social distancing will pose significant challenges for the creation of near-term
48 employment opportunities. Such challenges can be overcome, in part, by targeting those
49 activities that make use of the ability to work outside during the fair-weather conditions this
50 Spring and Fall.

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52 While workers in nearly every sector Washington’s economy have been adversely affected by the
53 Covid-19 pandemic, the loss of employment opportunities for low-skilled workers between 16-
54 24 years of age is the most substantial.

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56 Identifying projects and programs that can advance the Port’s mission, including the creation of
57 short-term employment emphasizing this age group, will provide material benefit to the Port as
58 it looks to maintain, preserve and enhance the assets and programs of statewide significance that
59 are necessary to Washington State’s economic recovery in 2020.

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61 RCW 53.08.245 states “...port districts may contract with nonprofit corporations and private and
62 public entities that provide training systems ... and promote workforce diversity in furtherance
63 of this and other acts relating to economic development.

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65 Economic development programs may include: Occupational job training and placement, job
66 advancement and job retention, preapprenticeship training, or occupational education programs
67 associated with port tenants, customers, and local economic development related to port
68 tenants or port-related economic activities that are sponsored by a port and operated by a
69 nonprofit, private, or public entity...”

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71 Any program that is developed shall require quantitative information on program outcomes
72 including: the number of workers trained, recruited, placed in jobs, and retained; the types of
73 jobs and range of compensation; the number and types of businesses that are served; and any
74 other tangible benefits realized by the port, the workers, businesses, and the public.”