



## **PROCLAMATION OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS,** César Chávez was an American farm worker, labor leader, and civil rights activist who, with civil rights activist Dolores Huerta, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers; and

**WHEREAS,** through self-sacrifice, a commitment to nonviolence, and their spirituality, César Chávez and Dolores Huerta championed a social justice movement that changed our nation; and

**WHEREAS,** the nearly 300,000 migrant and seasonal farm workers are the backbone of Washington's agricultural sector, which, in turn, accounts for a significant portion of all exports through the Port of Seattle; and

**WHEREAS,** in March 2014, President Barack Obama proclaimed March 31 as César Chávez Day; and

**WHEREAS,** the month of March is also when we celebrate and honor Women's History; and

**WHEREAS,** the Washington State Legislature designated April 10<sup>th</sup> as the Dolores Huerta Day in Washington State starting in 2020; and

**WHEREAS,** the employee Resource Group, ERG, Latinos Unidos at the Port of Seattle has led the Port of Seattle in honoring the legacy of César Chávez during the month of March since 2016; and

**WHEREAS,** the popular phrase "**Sí, se puede**" is attributed to the activism and civil rights work in which the celebration of César Chávez Day on March 31<sup>st</sup> is celebrated. It was Dolores Huerta who first said the words which translate in English to "Yes I can, or yes, we can," as she rallied support for worker and immigrant rights; and

**WHEREAS,** in 2019 the Port established an Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to address institutional racism and increase equity, diversity, and inclusion in Port policies, processes, and programs; and

**WHEREAS**, when each of us, individually and collectively, works to change things for the better, we embody the spirit of "**Sí, se puede.**"

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Port of Seattle Commission hereby honors and recognizes March 31<sup>st</sup>, as César Chávez Day and Dolores Huerta Day at the Port of Seattle.

Proclaimed by the Port of Seattle Commission this 23rd day of March, 2021.

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Port of Seattle Commission