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Board of Commissioners
Steven Burke, *President*
Colleen McAleer, *Vice President*
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Karen Goschen

December 8, 2020

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
U.S. House of Representatives
1410 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Act (MTSERA) in the National Defense Authorization Act

Dear Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, and Representative Kilmer:

The mission of the Port of Port Angeles is to bring people, resources, and industry together to foster economic prosperity and living wage jobs in Clallam County. Like many other sectors of the economy, our Port, its tenants, and customers have been adversely impacted by business curtailments and closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Accordingly, we were encouraged to see that the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in the House of Representatives contains the Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Act (MTSERA), which provides a mechanism for flowing emergency funding to ports and other maritime transportation interests. This mechanism is particularly important to smaller, rural Ports that bring essential economic activity outside of the major metropolitan areas.

Our Port has been uniquely impacted by COVID-19 because of the closure of travel between Canada and the United States. This has prevented the normal cross border movement of people and goods between Canada and the United States which is vital to our local economy

The Port of Port Angeles urges support for MTSERA and for funding to allow the new mechanism to function as intended. Please consider including emergency funding for maritime transportation, as envisioned in MTSERA, to assist Ports in rural areas to both survive and create new economic opportunities as we navigate the disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Steven Burke, President
On behalf of the Port of Port Angeles Board of Commissioners

WE BRING PEOPLE, RESOURCES AND INDUSTRY TOGETHER TO FOSTER LIVING WAGE JOBS

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