



Celebrating 100 years serving Clallam County

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October 3, 2023

The Honorable Alejandra Castillo
Assistant Secretary for Economic Development
U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

Re: North Olympic Peninsula Recompete Coalition

Dear Assistant Secretary Castillo,

The Port of Port Angeles is a coalition member and firm supporter of the North Olympic Peninsula Recompete Coalition (NOPRC) and its application to compete in the Recompete Pilot Program. As a public Port responsible for promoting business development and living wage job creation in Clallam County, we understand the importance of addressing the region's Prime Age Employment Gap (PAEG).

The Recompete Plan and Strategy Development Grant put forward by NOPRC shows great promise in creating the path toward a healthy, thriving economy for the Clallam and Jefferson County region by transforming legacy industries and building on existing assets. The Port is excited by the projects that have emerged and recognizes that they are in line with its mission to bring people, resources, and industry together to foster economic prosperity and grow living wage jobs. The Port has taken a leadership role as a member of the nascent Natural Resources Innovations Center (NRIC) and will continue throughout its ongoing development.

If funded, the Port is committed to playing a major role in locating and operating a new barge system that can act as a "portable port" that will enable businesses to grow across the region. The Port's barging plan could have particularly strong impacts in the West End area, which faces higher poverty levels than our towns and cities. The West End is limited in its ability to move products due to the unreliability of Highway 101, and high trucking costs eat into profit and undermine businesses' feasibility. Barging is a cost-efficient, cargo-agnostic transport method that can increase the economic viability of West End businesses, promoting the growth of new and existing firms. Barging will benefit the entire two-county region, but most importantly it will provide a reliable transportation link to our most underserved communities.

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The Port is proud to be a part of the collaborative effort needed to begin solving persistent economic distress in Clallam and Jefferson Counties. We are encouraged by the shared commitment among local governments, Tribes, non-profits, and businesses to improving people's lives through meaningful high-wage employment. The Port hopes that NOPRC's application is given strong consideration for its potential to revitalize our economy and make our industries more resilient and adaptable for future generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to create a more prosperous future for the North Olympic Peninsula.

Sincerely,



Connie Beauvais
Commissioner
Port of Port Angeles



Steven Burke
Commissioner
Port of Port Angeles



Colleen McAleer
Commissioner
Port of Port Angeles

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Port of Port Angeles 2024 Legislative Planning

- **Goals:**
 - Complete a Final Port of Port Angeles Legislative Plan in December 2023
 - The plan is Aligned with Port of Port Angeles Strategic Priorities
 - The plan is Aligned with Washington Public Port Association (WPPA) and North Olympic Legislative Alliance (NOLA) Priorities.

- **Iterative Process:**
 - Information and Feedback from the Port’s Team and Commission during October-December; Meeting with Legislators (November-December)
 - Engagement in WPPA and NOLA Planning – October - December
 - Legislative Plan Briefing and Feedback with the Commission in December

- **Setting the Stage: 2024 Legislative Session**
 - House – 58 Democrats – 40 Republicans; New Republican Leadership
 - Senate – 29 Democrats – 20 Republicans; Significant Committee Changes and Many Members running for Higher Office
 - 60 Day, Supplemental Budget Session
 - Operating Budget - +\$663 million in revenue (September Forecast)
 - Capital Budget - <\$95 million in bond capacity.
 - Transportation - ~ no change
 - Carbon Auctions - ~+\$2.5 billion (*Transportation, Capital and Operating*)

- **Initial Port of Port Angeles Priorities:**
 - **Stormwater** – (1) support efforts to resolve outstanding issues with stakeholders and DOE, (2) support implementation of any agreements.
 - **Aviation** – support incentives to transition from leaded AVGAS.
 - **DNR Timber Supply**
 - Defend against expanding the use of carbon auction revenues for trust land transfers and/or purchase of DNR timber and lands.
 - **Support for Key Grant Programs** (CERB, CARB, Port Electrification, Sustainable Aviation)

- **Initial WPPA Priorities that Align with Port Strategic Priorities**
 - Incentives for transitioning from Leaded AVGAS
 - Support for investments in Broadband
 - MTCA (Remedial Action Grants) – restore \$50 million diverted from MTCA.
 - Labor – Apprenticeship, Prevailing Wage, Definition of Public Works

- **Initial NOLA Priorities that Align with Port Strategic Priorities**
 - Authorize Limited Areas of More Intensive Rural Development (LAMIRD) for Housing
 - Sustainability of Rural Hospitals