



Celebrating 100 years serving Clallam County

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**Board of Commissioners**  
Connie Beauvais, President  
Colleen McAleer, Vice President  
Steven Burke, Secretary  
**Executive Director**  
Paul Jarkiewicz

March 12, 2024

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  
2059 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Murray and Cantwell and Representative Kilmer:

The Port of Port Angeles respectfully asks for your support of the Composite Recycling Technology Center's (CRTC) FY25 Defense Appropriations request. The CRTC, based out of Port Angeles, WA, is requesting \$6 million to continue working with the Department of Defense (DOD) to further explore the benefits of using cross-laminated timber (CLT) and recycled composite materials for deployable military structures.

CLT has the potential to meet many of the critical demands of the military, given that it is highly durable, blast-resistant, and low-cost relative to other solutions. However, traditional CLT uses non-treated lumber which does not perform well in certain conditions due to its moisture sensitivity, including the temperature and humidity extremes found in many military settings. Since conventional full-size CLT panels are very heavy and typically require cranes for placement, the CRTC has been working with the DOD to significantly reduce the size of the panel to make it much easier to handle in the field and to utilize thermally modified wood in the CLT construction for added dimensional stability and durability. The CRTC is also incorporating recycled composite reinforcements into the CLT where needed for extra strength and protection, making it much better suited for a wide range of force protection applications.

The military's widespread usage of this technology would stimulate harvesting of coastal western hemlock, thereby creating jobs in rural districts, boosting output capacities for lumber mills, and contributing significantly to wildfire risk reduction. Coastal western hemlock is currently considered a low-value wood species, so the work the CRTC is doing with the DOD will help to create new markets for its usage and will add much-needed jobs on the Olympic Peninsula in sustainable forestry. With its history supporting the natural resources industry and economic development in the region, the Port is excited to see these efforts bear fruit and create high-quality, living wage jobs in our communities.

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The collaboration between the CRTC and DOD has already directly led to new facilities being established on the Olympic Peninsula for lumber milling, and new production capacity for thermal modification, which is a first for Washington State. Additional processing and manufacturing facilities will be established, along with new industry capacity developed around factory-built, flat-packed homes to serve the military and under-served population housing. Furthermore, the recycled fibers utilized by the CRTC come from supply chains in the I-5 corridor and out to as far as Moses Lake, and ultimately, from recycled wind turbine blades. All of this would divert waste from Washington's landfills and increase the use of recycled composites.

The FY25 request would allow the CRTC and DOD to complete the needed testing and certifications and advance the CLT panel to a Technology Readiness Level 9 (TRL-9) with full commercialization. We also see a great opportunity to expand the CLT technology into residential housing applications like ADUs and tiny homes, to increase the number of affordable housing units we desperately need in our county and state.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Connie Beauvais  
Commissioner  
Port of Port Angeles



Steven Burke  
Commissioner  
Port of Port Angeles



Colleen McAleer  
Commissioner  
Port of Port Angeles