

1 **2019 Federal Government Affairs Agenda**

2 **Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) Reform**

3 Continue efforts to reform the HMT to ensure US tax policy does not disadvantage US ports and  
4 to provide greater equity for HMT donor ports through expanded use of Harbor Maintenance  
5 Trust Fund revenues. Support \$50 million appropriation for the “donor port” HMT rebate  
6 program authorized under Section 2106 of the 2014 Water Resources Reform and  
7 Development Act to compensate for the current structure and impacts of the HMT.

8 **Seattle Harbor Deepening Project**

9 Support appropriations for design and construction to deepen the federal channels serving T-  
10 18, T-30 and T-5 in Seattle Harbor.

11 **Tacoma Harbor Deepening Project**

12 Support funding for the feasibility study on deepening channels in Tacoma Harbor to  
13 accommodate ultra-large container ships at key NWSA cargo facilities.

14 **Terminal 5 Modernization Project**

15 Support federal funding for the Terminal 5 Modernization Project to meet changing container  
16 industry requirements, ensure the long-term competitiveness of the gateway and meet our  
17 environmental and community goals.

18 **National freight policy**

19 Support implementation and increased federal funding for a strengthened national multimodal  
20 freight strategy and related grant programs, including continued authorization and funding for

1 the TIGER/BUILD discretionary grant program. Support establishing a sustainable funding  
2 source for freight infrastructure and ensure user fee proposals 1) do not hurt the  
3 competitiveness of the Northwest trade corridor relative to others in North America; 2) are  
4 mode neutral; and 3) funds should be spent on improvements that benefit users who pay the fees  
5 and not diverted to other uses.

### 6 **Safe and efficient cargo screening**

7 Support adequate Customs and Border Protection (CBP) staffing levels to ensure efficient  
8 movement of cargo through the Puget Sound gateway. The NWSA seeks increased federal  
9 funding for CBP staffing at maritime ports of entry and reforms to expedite the hiring of new  
10 CBP officers. Pursue efforts to ensure the federal government retains responsibility for funding  
11 CBP services, equipment and facility development.

### 12 **Trade Policy Advancement**

13 Advocate for new trade agreements and productive engagement that ensure a fair and level  
14 playing field for mutually beneficial trade and that protect workers and the environment. The  
15 NWSA believes tariffs should be used as a measure of last resort and, when necessary, be  
16 narrowly targeted to minimize unintended impacts on American producers and consumers.

### 17 **Puget Sound Restoration**

18 Support increased federal resources for Puget Sound restoration, including appropriations for  
19 the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project, the National Estuary Program, the  
20 Puget Sound Geographic Program and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.