

# First Reading – Proposed Resolution 2023-04 Commitment to The Northwest Seaport Alliance



Co-Chairs Cho and Keller

## ACTION REQUESTED

Request the Managing Members approve first reading of proposed Resolution No. 2023-04, “Commitment to The Northwest Seaport Alliance” and advance to second reading.

# Resolution No. 2023-04

## A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST SEAPORT ALLIANCE **COMMITMENT TO THE NORTHWEST SEAPORT ALLIANCE**

**WHEREAS**, The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) is the marine cargo operating joint venture of Ports of Seattle and Tacoma (Homeport or Homeports); and

**WHEREAS**, The NWSA was formed in August 2015, following comprehensive public outreach and approval from the Federal Maritime Commission and Washington State Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, The Port of Seattle and Port of Tacoma each licensed properties to the NWSA to act as the exclusive operator and manager of the cargo and terminal properties for the ports; and

# Resolution No. 2023-04 Cont.

**WHEREAS**, each Homeport is a Managing Member of NWSA, comprised of the commissioners of the Homeports, and each Managing Member has equal vote in NWSA matters; and

**WHEREAS**, NWSA's purpose is to promote and assist economic development of the Managing Members' marine cargo operations with an emphasis on unified business retention and recruitment, coordinated enhancement of the value of marine cargo properties, improved intermodal rail service, improved freight capabilities, and the general promotion of maritime economic development and other related port business activity; and

**WHEREAS**, The NWSA was created to address developments in the shipping industry that threatened the future of the U.S. Pacific Northwest trade, and these threats remain today; and

**WHEREAS**, Shipping lines are deploying larger container ships and the size of these vessels will lead to fewer port calls. To remain competitive, ports need the capability to handle these larger vessels through deeper drafts, stronger aprons and berths and adequate cranes; and

# Resolution No. 2023-04 Cont.

**WHEREAS**, These larger container ships require significant capital investment in port infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, The NWSA venture has been hailed as a positive and creative approach throughout our industry at the national and international levels; and

**WHEREAS**, Prior to the formation of NWSA, detrimental competition between the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma was costing our state and entire region, examples including Seattle winning coveted grant dollars over Tacoma for a key infrastructure project and Tacoma taking business from Seattle, significantly reducing volumes overnight; and

**WHEREAS**, In forming our NWSA Gateway as one entity and having the ability to strategically prioritize investments in terminal infrastructure and environmental initiatives across two harbors, NWSA is better positioned to address competitive threats at a national and international scale; and

# Resolution No. 2023-04 Cont.

**WHEREAS**, The NWSA supports approximately 58,400 jobs, annually produces over \$4 billion in labor income, and contributes almost \$12.4 billion in business output; and

**WHEREAS**, The NWSA handled 3.4 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in 2022, ranking as the number seven gateway across North America; and

**WHEREAS**, The NWSA is the leading export gateway for hay and forage; frozen potato products; apples; legumes (peas, beans, and lentils); fresh potatoes; grass feed; hops and hop extract; pears, quinces; and sweet cherries; and

**WHEREAS**, through the Homeports' joint venture in the NWSA, we are making the region more competitive, efficient, and sustainable in moving cargo that supports business, economic opportunities and job creation for our region and across Washington State; and

**WHEREAS**, We are stronger together.

# Resolution No. 2023-04 Cont.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MANAGING MEMBERS OF THE NORTHWEST SEAPORT ALLIANCE that:

We restate our commitment as the NWSA and its original purpose and need, including honoring the contractual agreement of the NWSA's Charter as established in 2015.

As identified in the Charter, we will not seek to reevaluate, apportion, appraise or partition any aspects of NWSA or any of its existing assets.

We remain committed to working together to grow our Gateway and maintain current Membership Interest as defined in the Charter.

## ACTION REQUESTED

Request the Managing Members approve first reading of proposed Resolution No. 2023-04, “Commitment to The Northwest Seaport Alliance” and advance to second reading.