



2018 Federal Government Affairs Agenda

Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) Reform

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

Seattle Harbor Deepening Project

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

Tacoma Harbor Deepening Project

Support authorization and funding to begin a feasibility study of deepening channels in Tacoma Harbor in order to accommodate ultra-large container ships at key NWSA cargo facilities.

Terminal 5 Modernization Project

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

National freight policy

Support implementation and increased federal funding for a strengthened national multimodal freight strategy and related grant programs, including continued authorization and funding for the TIGER Discretionary Grant program.

Safe and efficient cargo screening

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

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Trade Policy Advancement

Engage with local, state and national partners to advocate for trade policies that open new markets and level playing fields for Washington employers and others who use the NWSA as their international gateway, while creating verifiable, measureable and enforceable standards to protect workers and the environment.

Puget Sound Restoration

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