



Clean truck legislation

Position

Support legislation clarifying statutory authority for public ports to invest in air quality improvement equipment, fuels and other methods that provides emission reductions for engines, vehicles and vessels.

Background

In 2008, the ports of Tacoma, Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. adopted the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy, with a goal to have 100 percent of the drayage trucks serving container terminals with cleaner diesel technology – a 2007 engine with diesel particulate filter or equivalent by 2017.

Since that goal was set, the ports of Seattle, Tacoma and The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) have invested more than \$15 million in matching grant funds to spur truck conversion. More than 410 trucks were scrapped and replaced with new trucks through partnership with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and funding through federal grants.

“These policies should include: incentives for replacement of the most polluting diesel engines...”

- Chapter 348, Laws of 2007

“This change allows port districts to use tax revenue to support this type of equipment...”

- Chapter 348, Laws of 2007 bill report

More work is needed

Despite all this effort, as of the end of August, approximately half of the roughly 4,500 trucks serving NWSA terminals met the 2007 engine or newer standard.

Many drivers—who may be recent immigrants or come from disadvantaged backgrounds—lack the access to credit needed to purchase these newer and more expensive vehicles.

The ports are interested in making further investments in assisting these drivers to purchase newer, cleaner operating trucks.

Legislative barriers

In 2007, the Legislature passed a law intended to allow ports to use tax revenue to support this type of investment (E2SHB 1303).

Unfortunately, the language adopted could be read in such a way as to disallow these types of investments. To provide legislative clarity and minimize legal and audit risk for ports, the alliance respectfully requests a technical amendment to clarify state law and fulfill the original intent of Chapter 348, Laws of 2007.

Contact

Sean Eagan

Govt. Affairs Director

(253) 428-8663

seagan@nwseaportalliance.com