



Port Competitiveness Caucus

Position

The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) seeks to build support for strengthening the competitiveness of the alliance through the establishment of a Port Competitiveness Coalition of supportive partners and a Port Competitiveness Caucus within the Legislature.

Value of the NWSA

The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) generates significant jobs and revenue to Washington state—a state where 40 percent of jobs are tied to trade. Its value extends far beyond the working waterfronts of Seattle and Tacoma, serving as the gateway for potatoes grown in the Tri-



Cities, apples grown in Wenatchee, man-lifts manufactured in Redmond and Moses Lake, and car dealerships located in Vancouver. Ultimately, NWSA's activities can be directly tied to 443,000 jobs throughout the state.



Competitive pressures

Washington's ports face a unique challenge – to manage public assets for public good in a competitive business environment. Moreover, more than half of the cargo that flows through the state's marine terminals either originates from or is destined to locations beyond Washington's borders.

In the past three years, the transpacific trade has reduced from twenty ocean carriers to just twelve, and from four

shipping alliances to now three. These carriers select from multiple ports eager to attract their business, leading ports to invest in new facilities, infrastructure and technology to increase their capacity.

Operating together as the NWSA allows the ports of Seattle and Tacoma to weather this global consolidation and leverage resources to make critical investments. But with growing uncertainty in the global marketplace and increased pressure from competitor ports, the NWSA has seen flat to negative growth and a loss of market share. This loss of market share results in less job, economic activity and export capacity for Washington's farmers and manufacturers. As a result, the NWSA needs support from all levels of

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government to curb the economic threats and potential job losses that could flow from further volatility.

How can the state help?

Washington's economic success is dependent on its marine cargo ports. Increasing competitive pressures, however, has resulted in falling market share for the NWSA.

To address these threats, and improve the gateway's competitiveness, the NWSA calls on state lawmakers to form a new caucus focused on these issues.

The goal: to create a new partnership to boost the gateway's competitive position and strengthen its future health.

