



# SUPERCARGOES, SUPERVISORS AND CHECKERS

STATE OF WASHINGTON

LOCAL 52

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September 5, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy, Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

ILWU Local 52 is pleased to express support for The Northwest Seaport Alliance's (NWSA) FY25 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant application for the Terminal 18 Efficiency Project. Terminal 18 (T-18) is the NWSA's largest international container terminal, an important economic driver in the Puget Sound region, and a hub for international trade within the Pacific Northwest.

The project will support the PIDP program's goals of improving the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of goods throughout the Port. By addressing poor paving conditions at T-18, the Project will make terminal operations safer and much more efficient and will help reduce pollutants that may contribute to poor water quality.

The project also includes the installation of weigh-in-motion scales at the T-18 truck gate, which will save truck drivers time by keeping traffic moving while accurately capturing weight related data at the terminal. When integrated into existing processes, weigh-in-motion technology allows for rapid processing of cargo without stoppage and delays.

NWSA cargo activity supports 52,000 jobs and \$13.9 billion in economic activity in Washington state. NWSA managed \$75 billion of waterborne trade with 180 global trading partners in 2024. The Terminal 18 Efficiency Project will help the NWSA stay competitive in the trans-Pacific trade. Improving operational conditions at T-18 as well as upgrading the gate infrastructure is critical to maintaining the NWSA's position as the premier cargo gateway in the Pacific Northwest.

Local 52 members are employed as chiefs, supercargoes, planners, and marine clerk supervisors at Terminal 18 daily. As we drive around the yard directing cargo operations, having a safe and streamlined operation is critical for us to move cargo efficiently. Additionally, smoother surfaces will greatly reduce injury risk. Currently the pavement is in such disarray that we often avoid driving in certain areas of the container yard to avoid injury. T18 is long overdue for paving improvements and this project will ensure we have a safe environment to work in for decades to come.

I urge you to support this important project for federal funding. Thank you for your time and consideration of the NWSA's application.

Sincerely,

Kesa Sten  
President  
ILWU Local 52