



WASHINGTON STATE POTATO COMMISSION
108 INTERLAKE ROAD, MOSES LAKE, WA 98837
PH: 509 765-8845 FAX: 509 765-4853 WWW.POTATOES.COM

September 8, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The Washington State Potato Commission 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 NWSA's position as the premier cargo gateway in the Pacific Northwest.

The Washington State potato industry is heavily reliant on trade with the Pacific Rim. We export 50-70% of our crop each year through the NW Seaport Alliance. I urge you to support this important project for federal funding. Thank you for your time and consideration of the NWSA's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Voigt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Voigt
Executive Director