



Washington State Tree Fruit Association

105 S. 18th Street, Suite 116 - Yakima, WA 98901 - 509-452-8555

September 9, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Duffy:

I am writing to express the support of the Washington State Tree Fruit Association (WSTFA) 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 NWSA, a partnership between the ports of Seattle and Tacoma, is the fourth largest gateway for containerized cargo in North America.

WSTFA represents the growers, packers, and marketers of apples, pears, cherries and other tree fruits in Washington State. Thirty percent of our members' production is exported, much of it through the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma. Central and Eastern Washington depend on the ability to get crops to foreign markets. Washington alone exports \$6.5 billion in goods through our ports each year, supporting nearly 400,000 jobs. Agricultural goods are a large percentage of those exports including \$497 million in apples and \$243 million in cherries.

The Terminal 18 Efficiency 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.

Washington's tree fruit industry is one of the state's largest agricultural exporters and depends on efficiency through the Northwest Seaport Alliance to reach global markets. These highly perishable products must move quickly and efficiently through port facilities to preserve quality and meet the strict standards of international buyers. Reliable, strong port infrastructure is essential to keep these exports moving competitively and without disruption. Investments in terminal effectiveness, capacity, and resiliency will directly benefit growers, packers, and sustain jobs in rural communities by ensuring timely delivery of our Northwest tree fruit.

We 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 cursive script that reads "Ranie L. Haas". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ranie L. Haas
Director of Regulatory and Industry Affairs
Washington State Tree Fruit Association