RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02

A RESOLUTION OF
THE NORTHWEST SEAPORT ALLIANCE
US COAST GUARD BASE SEATTLE EXPANSION

WHEREAS, The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is an essential partner to The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) because of the important role it plays in national security, maritime safety, environmental protection, and scientific research; and

WHEREAS, The NWSA wishes to support the USCG's mission by facilitating its modernization.

WHEREAS, The NWSA views maritime operations as the best and most important use of port-owned waterfront industrial property; and

WHEREAS, The NWSA seeks to ensure our region's waterfront industrial land is optimized to provide freight capacity that will be needed to support our local, state and national economies over the long term; and

WHEREAS, The NWSA's Seattle cargo operations represent critical economic activity, generating over 7,100 direct jobs and enabling Washington state exporters to access global markets, such that the footprint of any new USCG developments should be minimized to avoid putting operations at cargo facilities at risk; and

WHEREAS, The Port of Seattle has licensed terminals 46 and 30 to the NWSA to manage, and included in that license is the expectation that NWSA will lease the terminals to third parties; and

WHEREAS, The NWSA is completing lease negotiations on a short-term lease with a terminal operator that would restore container ship operations at the north berth of Terminal 46 in 2023 and has received tentative interest from the marketplace for a two-berth cargo operation at the terminal; and

WHEREAS, The scope of the DEIS is insufficient to provide the Coast Guard and affected entities with enough information to understand the full impacts of modernizing the base and to make informed decisions about how to manage them; and

WHEREAS, The NWSA recognizes expanding the base to the north is a path that provides the Coast Guard more certainty with regard to the cost and timeline for the development of berths and upland facilities, and that expanding to the south involves greater uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, Managing impacts of new developments associated with expanding USCG Base Seattle will require the USCG to engage in close coordination with the Port of Seattle, the NWSA, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Suquamish Tribe, federal agencies, state and local government jurisdictions and other affected stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MANAGING MEMBERS OF THE NORTHWEST SEAPORT ALLIANCE that:

It is the position of the NWSA that any expansion of Base Seattle, including onto Terminal 46 and Terminal 30, should seek to minimize impacts to marine cargo operations to the maximum extent possible.

The NWSA intends to continue to use terminals 30 and 46 for cargo activities to generate economic benefits for the region and its maritime workforce and seeks to preserve the NWSA's flexibility with a preference for a long-term cargo tenant at Terminal 46 that utilizes two berths at the facility.

The NWSA will assist the Coast Guard in designing and implementing a base development plan that both enables the Coast Guard to accommodate an expanded presence in Seattle and allows the NWSA to maintain or increase capacity in Seattle for cargo operations.

To help manage impacts of potential new development by the USCG in the East Waterway and achieve an outcome that maximizes benefits of the various activities that Seattle's industrial waterfront supports, the NWSA will actively engage with tribes, federal agencies, state and local government partners, neighboring communities, labor, and other supply chain and maritime industry stakeholders.

The NWSA urges the USCG to engage with our organization and the aforementioned entities to mitigate the impacts of Base Seattle expansion.

The NWSA requests that the USCG undertake meaningful consultation with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and Suquamish Tribe to ensure that impacts to their usual and accustomed fishing areas and treaty-reserved fish and shellfish resources are adequately mitigated.

ADOPTED by a majority of the members of The Northwest Seaport Alliance at a regular meeting held on the 7th day of March 2023, a majority of the members being present and voting on this resolution and signed by its Co-Chairs and attested by its Co-Secretaries under the official seal of said Managing Members in authentication of its passage this 7th day of March, 2023.

Sam Cho, Co-Chair
The Northwest Seaport Alliance

Deanna Keller, Co-Chair
The Northwest Seaport Alliance

ATTEST:

Fred Felleman, Co-Secretary
The Northwest Seaport Alliance

John McCarthy, Co-Secretary
The Northwest Seaport Alliance