



Port of Tacoma position

The Port supports aligning the small works roster limit for ports with all other governments in Washington.

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The Issue

Small works rosters are lists of qualified contractors who can bid for an eligible project below a dollar threshold. Rosters are less restrictive and time-consuming than full formal competitive bids, making it easier for both the public agency issuing the contract as well as the contractors interested in the work.

Historically, local governments had different small works roster thresholds established in statute. Over time, however, the Legislature removed many of these individual limits. Today, the small works roster threshold is \$350,000 for most local governments and is governed by RCW 39.04.155.

Ports, however, have a separate limit found in RCW 53.08.120. That limit is \$300,000.

Solution

The Port supports removing this limit and, instead, allowing ports to be regulated under RCW 39.04.155 like most other local governments. The benefits of such a change are as follows:

- Small works procurements take roughly half of the time compared to other procurements. A higher threshold provides greater flexibility to ports and allows for the more efficient use of taxpayer dollars.
- Without the dollar value adjustment, Ports are at a slight disadvantage when trying to get work done as contractors will gravitate to the higher dollar value projects first.
- Aligning the port statute with other local governments provides consistency in state law and makes it less confusing for firms trying to do business through small works rosters as to what the maximum dollar limit is.
- If and when lawmakers adjust the limit in the future, only one amendment would be needed (in RCW 39) as opposed to multiple amendments throughout code.

