

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the Port of Bellingham's Port Infrastructure Development (PIDP) application for the Bellingham Shipping Terminal Rehabilitation project.

According to the Port, rehabilitating the Port of Bellingham's deep-water shipping terminal will allow it to move domestic and international bulk and breakbulk cargo through the northern Puget Sound. This project will strengthen the central pier and dredge the channel serving berths one and two at the south, central and north piers to accommodate larger ocean vessels. Pier repairs will bolster the Port's capacity by facilitating the landing of heavy cargoes onto the dock and permitting the future use of mobile shore cranes.

It will also revitalize and rehabilitate the rail span barge in order to improve barge loading and unloading, which has increased at the Bellingham Shipping Terminal in the past two years. These improvements will increase capacity at the Port and make cargo transportation more efficient. The Port expects this project to create hundreds of family wage jobs.

The Bellingham Shipping Terminal project will create new opportunities for continued economic growth in our region. Thank you for your full and fair consideration to the Port of Bellingham's application.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator