

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 08, 2021

Lucinda Lessley
Acting Administrator, Maritime Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Lessley,

We are writing to express our support for the Port of Ilwaco's application to the *Port Infrastructure Development Grant Program (PIDP)* for the Port's East Bulkhead Resilience Project.

The Port of Ilwaco, combined with the Port of Chinook, sustains one of every six private sector jobs in Pacific County. The port is a critical port for commercial seafood cargoes and serves as a key destination for marine services to vessels trading in the region. The current east bulkhead is deteriorating and cannot support truck traffic needed to ensure efficient cargo operations. This hampers the port's ability to create jobs and facilitate commerce efficiently. If not rebuilt in a timely manner and the bulkhead were to give away, it would spell disaster and negative economic and environmental impacts to the port's operations and the broader community.

MARAD funding would help develop a modern, resilient piece of infrastructure capable of supporting some of the most sustainable operations in the industry. The project includes a rebuild of a critical bulkhead, berth, and loading dock access. The rebuilt bulkhead and berth would facilitate transfer of shipments directly from vessel to dock and dock to truck. This infrastructure would be built to resiliency standards to protect against future expected impacts of climate change.

If funded, the project would also ensure that a major port tenant, a commercial seafood processor that is among the largest employers in the county, can continue to operate safely and efficiently at the port. The tenant plans to hire 64 new employees at the site over the next five years, but the failing bulkhead risks the entire operation. The tenet's predecessor occupying the site was the third largest employer in Pacific County and the county has one of the highest unemployment rates in Washington state.

Thank you for your consideration of the Port of Ilwaco's application. Please contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress