

MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

December 13, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the Port of Tacoma's application to the 2021 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) for its Off-Dock Container Support Facility.

The Port of Tacoma (Port) is requesting \$15.73 million in grant funding to develop three contiguous parcels on the Tacoma Tideflats totaling 24.5 acres of land to support off-dock container terminal operations that are currently impeded by limited dock space. Construction of the project will allow the Port to free up waterfront and on-dock space by consolidating storage and non-waterfront dependent activities like container storage and the preparation of refrigerated containers to areas outside of the main terminal. This will improve the Port's ability to serve container vessels and increase cargo container capacity at the Port's Washington United Terminal. The Project will also make freight movement more efficient by reducing truck queueing and congestion on Port of Tacoma Road, which is used to enter and exit Port terminals.

This project is the next step in the Port's General Central Peninsula Improvement Program, under which the Port is modernizing and optimizing the container terminals and support facilities on its General Central Peninsula. Construction of the Off-Dock Container Support Facility will support the Port in improving the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of goods into, out of, around, and within the port.

The Off-Dock Container Support Facility will benefit the many workers on the docks and in the yards as well as the supply chain businesses that move goods outside of the Port, the manufacturers across the country that rely on the Port to import components and export finished products, and the agricultural producers that export their products across the globe. As a key cog in the trade gateway between the U.S. and Canadian seaports and supply chains, the Port of Tacoma's marine cargo operations currently support 36,900 jobs and over \$2.5 billion in labor income across the Washington state economy.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the Port of Tacoma's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell".

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator