

Handout @ 9/17/13
TREE Mtg.
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Washington's Port System is Reliant on Strong Rail Infrastructure

Role of the Ports

- 1) Washington State is a global gateway to the Pacific Rim, Canada and Alaska. The state's strategic location positions it as a key transportation hub for Washington State and the US providing access to markets to create jobs and economic growth and link business, government and economic activities together locally, nationally and internationally.
- 2) Washington's ports have a crucial mandate: job creation. A port district is uniquely capable of creating economic growth and increasing the number of family-wage jobs in a community, because of the specific authorities granted by the legislature. Ports are the only public agencies whose primary purpose is economic development.
 - a. More than 95% of US cargo imports arrive by ship,
 - b. West Coast ports, including Seattle/Tacoma, accounted for 75% of Asian imports,
 - c. These imports are then connected to the US intermodal system and are able to arrive at the US East Coast in about 18 days,
 - d. As the Panama Canal expansion project is complete in 2014, efficient intermodal transportation will be critical for Washington ports to remain competitive and maintain their family wage jobs.
 - e. Our state's manufacturers and farmers rely on the freight system to ship Washington – made products to local and international customers.
(WA. State DOT – Freight Mobility Plan)

Jobs

- 1) Port of Seattle 21,695
- 2) Port of Tacoma 9,370
- 3) Port of Vancouver 2,300
- 4) BNSF & UP 3,200
- 5) In 2009 there were 774 long-distance trucking firms in the state, generating \$534.2M in wages
(WA. State DOT – Freight Mobility Plan)
- 6) 4 in 10 jobs in Washington State are tied to international trade

Washington State Industries Reliant on Transportation System

Agriculture

- In 2012 Washington agricultural business employed 87,643 people contributing up to \$3.0 billion in state gross business income.
- Food manufacturing contributed another \$9.5B in state gross business income with 33,342 more jobs.
- Washington is ranked third in the US in value of food and agriculture exported, with nearly \$13B moving through the ports.

Rail

- 1) Over 60% of Washington Port's container traffic is transient cargo and moves through our state on the railroads.
- 2) The majority of bulk agricultural cargoes arrive at our ports via rail.
- 3) In the past few years, federal, state and local agencies have begun studying how Washington can best improve the state's rail infrastructure. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is currently completing an analysis of the existing rail stock and forecasting what changes must be made to accommodate the increase in rail traffic expected by 2020. By that time, rail traffic is expected to exceed truck traffic throughout the state, particularly in the Puget Sound region. Puget Sound ports rail traffic is forecasted to exceed truck traffic by nearly four percent within 15 years.
- 4) Without an efficient transportation system, a port is unable to grow: goods must be able to reach their destination quickly and efficiently. Imagine businesses all across the state unable to get the goods they need, and you begin to see that the transportation network is the skeleton of a state's economy.

Current EIS Processes Associated With Ports

- 1) Unprecedented Port development EIS processes are said to be including:
 - a. Train health impacts
 - b. Train traffic impacts
 - c. Train diesel emissions impacts
 - d. Rail line congestion

All from with a geographic scope from the ports to the cargo start/end point
- 2) This unprecedented scope, if established as a precedent for state policy, or used in the future by groups opposed to port expansion could eradicate future port and industrial growth.
- 3) Washington agricultural companies, whose export volumes are forecasted to exceed terminal capacity in the near future are concerned there will never be another grain terminal built in our state
- 4) If this EIS precedent was applied to industrial projects which use rail and the port systems, such as Boeing's 777X plant, Washington state will not be able to attract these businesses and we will lose those family wage jobs to other states.

Ask

- 1) The decisions the Inslee administration makes on the scope used to review the coal export terminals will have a direct impact on the success or failure of their strategy to build the maritime sector and our state's economy.
- 2) Please provide the same type of support and focus to the maritime industry and its supporting infrastructure as other sectors of our economy receive, such as aerospace.