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July 25th, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased today to write in support of the Northwest Seaport Alliance's (NWSA) application to the United States Department of Transportation's (DOT) Reducing Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program for the project titled "*Advancing a Just and Equitable Transition to Zero-Emission Port Trucks in the Seattle-Tacoma Region.*"

This funding, if awarded, will help facilitate a project that aims to incentivize the deployment of 36 to 58 zero emission drayage trucks in the Seattle-Tacoma region, including the purchase of the vehicles and the development of the necessary charging or fueling infrastructure for those trucks. The NWSA-managed incentive program will fund up to 50 percent of the total costs of a proposed deployment (vehicles + infrastructure) – or up to 80 percent of the total costs if the proponent can clearly demonstrate that their project will engage and serve independent owner-operators, small trucking companies (i.e., those that own five trucks or fewer), and/or minority business enterprises, disadvantaged business enterprises, and women business enterprises.

This project will allow the NWSA to significantly expand the Zero Emission Drayage Demonstration Program that is set to launch in September/October 2023. The benefits to our region and state will include:

- Significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and, importantly, emissions of diesel particulate matter that disproportionately impact disadvantaged, overburdened communities living near the seaports and along the major freight corridors in the Seattle-Tacoma region; and
- Benefitting the region's drayage trucking companies, more than 30% of which are independent owner/operators or very small companies (owning five or fewer trucks); and
- Preserving and creating good-paying jobs in the trucking industry and improve the job quality for participating truckers by providing affordable access to quieter, cleaner, healthier, trucks; and
- Laying the foundation for the large-scale transition to zero-emission trucking in Washington state and the Pacific Northwest.

It is for these reasons that I support the NWSA's application to the DOT's Reducing Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program, and I urge your fair and full consideration of their proposal. Should you have any questions, please contact Emma Abraham in my Tacoma district office at Emma.Abraham@mail.house.gov or 253-272-3515.

Sincerely,

Derek Kilmer



Member of Congress