



## ALASKA & PUGET SOUND

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

November 9–10, 2015 | Anchorage, Alaska

Media Advisory  
November 3, 2015

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### Summit to Strengthen Alaska and Puget Sound's Relationship

**Anchorage, AK** – On Nov. 9-10, a delegation of business and government leaders from Alaska and the Puget Sound will convene for a two day summit to examine the economic connections between the regions and work to overcome recently highlighted divides.

“It has been over a decade since Puget Sound business and elected leaders have visited Alaska as part of an official delegation,” said Joshua Berger of the Washington Maritime Federation. “The time is now to rekindle our relationship and to re-affirm our unique connections and histories.”

Hosted by the Alaska Chamber and the Washington Maritime Federation, the summit held at the Captain Cook Hotel will feature keynote speakers – including [Commissioner of the Department of Commerce Chris Hladick](#), [Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz](#), [Washington State Representative Gael Tarleton](#) and [Washington Department of Commerce Director Brian Bonlender](#) – and working group session intended to help shape the future of this critical relationship. According to the recent [Ties That Bind report](#), this relationship generates annually more than \$6.2 billion in wages and 113,000 jobs.

“As we’ve seen over the last year, policy decisions in Puget Sound make an impact in Alaska,” added Rachael Petro, president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber, “Rather than working against each other on policy and economic issues, we should be working in unison for the benefit of both regions.”

The summit will examine the current state of the freight and cargo, seafood, transportation and tourism, energy and natural resources, maritime support services, health care and education sectors focused on:

- ◆ Building relationships across sectors, opinions, and organizations.
- ◆ Educating each other on the economic impact between the Puget Sound and Alaska.
- ◆ Understanding the social and community impact between the two regions.
- ◆ Identifying issues across sub-sectors to develop common policy positions and goals.
- ◆ Connecting elected officials and thought leaders on a vision for the future.

“From the earliest days of the Gold Rush, the Puget Sound and Alaska have shared an enduring and mutually beneficial relationship,” said Joe Sprague, senior vice president of Alaska Airlines. “Our economies and culture are connected across the air, water and land.”

The open sessions include:

#### **Monday, November 9**

12:30 pm: Welcome from Anchorage Mayor Berkowitz and WA State Rep. Tarleton

6:30 pm: Closing remarks from AK Commerce Commissioner Hladick and WA Commerce Dir. Bonlender

**Tuesday, November 10**

12:00 pm: Tour of the Port of Anchorage

Please contact David Richey at (206) 282-1990 or [davidr@strategies360.com](mailto:davidr@strategies360.com) for interview opportunities and for session access. For more information, the full agenda and list of participants, please visit: [www.maritimefederation.com/summit](http://www.maritimefederation.com/summit).

**About the Washington Maritime Federation**

The Washington Maritime Federation is comprised of labor, business and maritime organizations across the state that are committed to keeping middle class communities strong, and supporting the long term commercial viability of our ports and industry in a global marketplace. For more information, please visit [www.maritimefederation.com](http://www.maritimefederation.com).

**About the Alaska Chamber**

The Alaska Chamber, a private, non-profit corporation, operating since 1952, works to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Alaska Chamber is the voice of small and large business across the state with a Board of Directors comprised of 80 members representing all regions of the state. For more information visit [www.alaskachamber.com](http://www.alaskachamber.com).

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