



# WASHINGTON MARITIME FEDERATION

*A Coordinated Voice for Maritime Progress*

## STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY 2018

### PERMITTING ALIGNMENT AND PREDICTABILITY

**The Washington Maritime Federation supports regulatory reform that aligns and improves permitting processes for economic development projects in the state. Permitting alignment will create a more predictable regulatory environment where all economic development projects are carefully and systematically reviewed. The current process can be leveraged through political pressures to push projects too quickly or to freeze economic development initiatives completely. A predictable process that inspires certainty while enhancing comprehensive environmental review will encourage investment in critical infrastructure throughout the state and make Washington more competitive.**

The Washington Maritime Federation (WMF) represents a coordinated and unified voice of the diverse and interdependent sub-sectors of the maritime industry. WMF supports policy and investment priorities that support the vitality, growth and resilience of Washington's maritime industry. Regional, state and federal priorities are based on a full consensus decision-making process by WMF members advised by associate members and a broad group of business, labor and government stakeholders.

## WHY

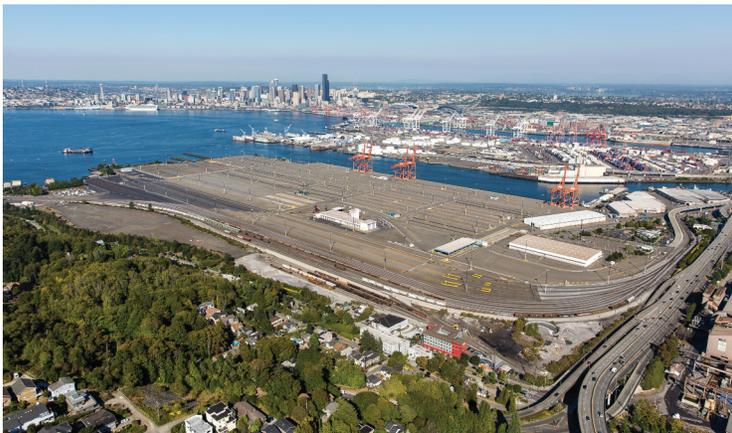
*Currently, there is a disjointed permitting process across Washington State agencies as well as between state and federal agencies for the maintenance, repair,*

*remediation and new construction of terminals, docks, and other shoreside facilities. This puts Washington in an extremely disadvantaged position for maritime sustainability and investment despite our other attractive features such as our sophisticated maritime industry, proximity to Asia, and natural deep water harbors.*

It is critical to the development and resiliency of our infrastructure that there is a reasonable expectation of consistency and timeliness in the regulatory and permitting process. Examples of such alignment exist for other sectors within Washington State and in regions that compete directly with Washington.

#### PERMITTING ALIGNMENT EFFECTS

- Job creation
- Improvement of infrastructure
- Movement of goods
- Strengthen public confidence
- Preserve comprehensive environmental review
- Enhancement of trade opportunities



## HOW

*The Washington Maritime Federation supports engagement across state, local and federal agencies that are responsible for review and permitting of shoreside*

*facilities to develop a permitting regime that is effective, predictable, and cost-effective. The Washington State Department of Commerce's Regulatory Road Map program is such a process.*

The Federation encourages the legislature to consider implementing reforms that preserve thorough environmental review and foster critical maritime economic development through:

■ **Concurrent review** - Allowing state agencies to concurrently review permit applications would foster collaboration and information sharing between a lead agency, secondary agencies, and a permit applicant. This cooperative approach could drive more effective and achievable terms and conditions and allow for more efficient identification and implication of needed proposal revisions and mitigation measures.

■ **Scope** - The scoping of potential environmental analysis should be limited to direct impacts of the proposed project within the State including reasonable and foreseeable activity levels and the direct impact of the proposed project. The scope of project analysis should allow for comprehensive review of all proposed projects and, where appropriate, involve the full mandated level of public input.

■ **Duration** - Environmental project review should be completed within a reasonable timeframe and avoid politically-motivated haste or delay. While project review can vary extensively based on the complexity of projects, it is reasonable to expect timeliness and consistency in the permitting process. Indefinite timelines and excessive review periods are already frustrating vital economic development in Washington.

*Port of Seattle's Terminal-5, in the North Harbor of the Northwest Seaport, awaits redevelopment to increase port competitiveness and living-wage job creation. The terminal is needed to accommodate larger ships and increase efficiency as it competes with other west coast ports.*

Photo Credit: Port of Seattle