



# WASHINGTON MARITIME FEDERATION

*A Coordinated Voice for Maritime Progress*

## STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY 2020

### SAFEGUARD THE MODEL TOXICS CONTROL ACT (MTCA) ACCOUNT

Washington Maritime Federation strongly supports the Governor's \$23.7 million supplemental budget request to allow the Department of Ecology to fund additional cleanup sites.

#### THE FEDERATION URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO

- Eliminate financial uncertainty for cleanup projects, and;
- Support continued stable MTCA funding for cleanup projects now and in the future

The Federation, a statewide organization providing a unified voice for the diverse and interdependent sub-sectors of the maritime industry, supports policy and investment priorities that encourage industry vitality, growth and resilience. The organization's regional, state and federal priorities are determined through a consensus decision-making process by Federation members who are also advised by associate members and a broad group of business, labor and government stakeholders.

***The state MTCA account provides funding for Remedial Action Grants (RMGs) essential to helping local governments accept liability for contaminated properties and clean them up. These state grants are paid for by a dedicated tax on hazardous substances, primarily petrochemicals. Highlights and benefits of the MTCA program include:***

- **Funding for Cleanups** - The Legislature passed major reform legislation in 2019 to stabilize and increase funding for cleanup projects. The Federation recognizes the extraordinary effort needed to pass the new law and urges legislators to protect these funds for ongoing and future cleanup projects. .
- **Leverage Local Dollars** - State Remedial Action Grants are matched dollar for dollar by local governments only after they enter into an agreement with Ecology to clean up a contaminated property. Local governments assume financial responsibility when they undertake these projects, and their willingness to take this risk depends on the state's a funding partnership to make these projects pencil out.
- **Salmon, Orcas AND People** - According the State Department of Ecology, Washington contains more than 12,500 toxic waste sites which endanger the state's water resources, including Puget Sound, and, ultimately, the health of our citizens. The toxic chemicals often found at these sites also endanger the sound's Southern Resident Killer Whale population. MTCA cleanups restore land and water, and benefit our natural environment and the people who live and work adjacent to these sites.
- **Jobs and Development** - The funding partnership between the state and local governments eliminates toxic threats and makes contaminated lands available for re-use. Ports use Remedial Action Grants to turn toxic sites into jobs.

- **Environmental Cleanup and Jobs (Model Toxics Control Act)** – Legislative support for MTCA funding is a model for how contaminated properties can be cleaned up and returned to productive, job creating uses. Using funds from MTCA, port districts have delivered wins for the economy and the environment. The Washington Maritime Federation supported the reform legislation enacted in 2019 because it promised to stabilize funding for site remediation activities. This year we strongly support the Department of Ecology's \$23.7 million 2020 Supplemental Budget request to fund additional cleanup sites.

#### OUR REQUEST

- Support the Supplemental budget request - Eliminate financial uncertainty for cleanup projects.
- Stable MTCA funding for cleanup projects now and in the future.



Photo: Port of Tacoma