

Resolution in Support of Gateway Pacific Terminal

Resolution #2

Whereas, SSA Marine, a unionized company based in Washington State, is developing the Gateway Pacific Terminal, a modern cargo-handling facility to expand America's exports of dry bulk commodities located in Whatcom County in the Cherry Point Heavy Industrial Zone, a naturally deep-water port long designated for water-dependent industrial activities; and

Whereas, the terminal will be built and operated by union labor and will create thousands of construction jobs as well as hundreds of long-term, family wage jobs not only in Washington but across the nation. These family wage jobs would provide significant job opportunities for residents of NW Washington, including significant opportunities for Native American communities; and

Whereas, construction activity in Whatcom County has declined to such an extent that trade union members have suffered at 30-40% unemployment rates in the recent past; and

Whereas, Washington State is driven by exports, and is the most trade dependent state in the nation with 40% of Washington State jobs related to trade and trade-related industries, and almost half of the new jobs created are export-related; and

Whereas, the Northwest Washington Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, and SSA Marine negotiated in a professional manner resulting in a Project Labor Agreement that created excellent working conditions, full wages and benefits per local craft agreements, and an excellent, good faith working relationship moving forward ; and

Whereas, the project is subject to the required, project-specific environmental review, under law, facts and science, in a manner that is timely, fair, and compatible with good environmental practice; and

Whereas, North America's Building Trades Unions, AFL-CIO, collectively represent over 3 million skilled craft professionals and their families in the United States and Canada; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO reaffirm its commitment to publicly support the Gateway Pacific Terminal; and be it further

Resolved, that the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, will communicate this support to the Governor, the Washington State Legislature and Congressional Delegation, statewide elected officials, and relevant federal, state and local government agencies; therefore

Be it Finally Resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to the North America's Building Trades Unions, AFL-CIO, for adoption and continued support at the national level.