



## Washington Public Ports Association 2014 Legislative Priorities

*WPPA believes this legislative session provides an opportunity to look forward and work to create an economic climate that will foster sustainable growth throughout the state.*

### **PORTS: Focused on sustainable job-creation**

#### **Critical Infrastructure Investment**

- **Transportation Revenue/Reforms:** WPPA believes the legislature should pass, as soon as possible, a transportation revenue package that provides the freight corridor funding and adequate rail funding that is critical to keep our state economically competitive. Reforms are also needed in the process for constructing transportation projects to ensure projects can be completed in a timely and cost effective manner.
- **Local Government Gas Tax Funding Formula:** Many Ports own roads that must be maintained in order to keep our state's trade economy growing. Because funds for maintenance are becoming more difficult to come by, we believe the gas tax funding formula for local governments should be expanded to allow Ports who maintain streets to receive them.
- **CERB Funding/Reform:** WPPA supports increased funding for the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB), to provide crucial infrastructure for job creation. WPPA supports the CERB request for additional FTE's to provide project development assistance to ports and communities throughout the state. WPPA will also support efforts to reform CERB statutes to eliminate the median wage requirement for projects to receive consideration by the CERB.

#### **Maintaining Environmental Clean-up and Job Creating Capacity**

- **MTCA:** WPPA advocates for the jobs created as a result of brownfield restoration. We also recognize the increasing need to protect sensitive habitats from the effects of toxic storm water runoff. As a result, WPPA supports maintaining appropriations from the Local Toxics Control Account and the Environmental Legacy Stewardship Account for these purposes. Ports are resistant to long-term diversions of resources from these core purposes.

#### **Economic development opportunities for communities**

- **Port Formation:** The communities of Spokane and Ellensburg are both expressing interest in creating port districts in order to foster job-creation. However, in order to create a less than county-wide port district in a county with no ports, legislation is required. WPPA supports legislation that will put in place, for a window of time, the statutory changes necessary to provide these communities with the opportunity to put forward proposals to create their own port districts.

Washington Public Ports Association (360) 943-0760

Eric Johnson  
Ginger Eagle  
Gerry O'Keefe

[ericj@washingtonports.org](mailto:ericj@washingtonports.org)  
[geagle@washingtonports.org](mailto:geagle@washingtonports.org)  
[gokeefe@washingtonports.org](mailto:gokeefe@washingtonports.org)