



WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORTS ASSOCIATION

THE MANIFEST

RURAL JOBS REMAINS A FOCUS FOR MANY GROUPS: RENEWED EFFORTS THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WPPA remains engaged in a coalition effort to improve the economy of rural Washington. After two major statewide meetings hosted by the Association of Washington Business, a series of legislative objectives are being drafted for the legislature to consider in 2018. These objectives are being forwarded by a coalition of local governments (including ports), business groups, agricultural groups and economic development organizations.

Improving the economies of rural areas can take many forms, and include areas as diverse as workforce training, housing availability, sustainable agriculture and forestry, water availability, and access to adequate broadband. Plain old-fashioned infrastructure programs like CERB also have a key role.

KEY OBJECTIVES WILL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:

- Supporting manufacturing jobs by lowering the B&O tax on manufacturing.
- Improving the availability of broadband infrastructure in under-served rural areas. This includes modernizing port district powers to provide dark fiber throughout rural Washington.
- Protecting and preserving industrial lands and the transportation corridors that connect manufacturing and agricultural lands to port facilities.
- Improve access to capital in rural areas, using grant and loan programs.
- Fixing the Supreme Court's Hirst decision, which has greatly limited the ability of counties to permit wells in rural areas.
- Implementing the 2015 Connecting Washington transportation revenue package, including key freight and rural connectivity projects.

For week-to-week updates on this and all other legislative matters affecting ports, be sure to subscribe to the WPPA Legislative Report, which is published every Friday of the legislative Session. ■

SPOTLIGHT

WPPA APPOINTS NEW COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

We at WPPA are pleased to announce the addition of Communications Manager, Laura Pettitt on December 11, 2017. A native



of Gig Harbor in Pierce County, she holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from the University of Washington.

Following graduation she worked in tourism positions in Seattle, and spent seven years with national New York and Los Angeles-based public relations firms focused on international and domestic transportation and tourism. In addition, she has served in leadership positions for in-house corporate communications and marketing roles in Texas and Colorado before returning to the Pacific Northwest in 2016.

"The Pacific Northwest is home to me - and, truly, Washington State is the one of the most beautiful, varied and economically vibrant landscapes in the country," she said. "I am incredibly excited and proud to work for the ports of Washington. I'm looking forward to providing support for WPPA members and spreading the word about the great amount of work you collectively accomplish."

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FROM ERIC JOHNSON

FAST BALLS, CURVE BALLS & CHANGE UPS



I don't like change very much, and I tend to love traditions. For instance, I think that every baseball stadium should do away with the big jumbo screens that continually bombard the fans with flash and glitz. I like the old-fashioned hand-operated scoreboards. What is wrong with just using those?

So types the man without a Facebook page. But I realize that not everyone thinks like I do, and the younger they are the less likely to think that a hand-operated scoreboard is all you really need at a ballpark (in addition to hot dogs, beer and peanuts of course).

I listen to what people say, but I pay much closer attention to what people do. And what do I see them doing more and more every day? I see them looking at their smart phones. Everyone is interacting with others and gathering most of the information they want through a three-by-five piece of glass that is always with them.

So – smart phones it is. If you read the *Spotlight* story on the previous page you saw that our new Communications Manager began work this week. I decided to re-create

this position largely in response to my observation that if you cannot communicate to an audience effectively through that little piece of glass, you probably aren't communicating at all.

You should notice changes – or improvements, depending on what year you were born – before long. I'll be keenly interested in what you think of them, so don't hesitate to holler out from the stands if you don't like the plays I am calling from the dugout.

Just don't expect me to stop calmly looking at that hand-operated scoreboard while I drop peanut shells into an empty beer cup. I hope no one ever invents an app for that. ■

Happy Holidays

from your WPPA Staff

There will be no edition of The Manifest published on December 31

UPCOMING EVENTS

Port Day

January 23, 2018
Olympia
Capitol Campus,
Cherberg Conference Room

Spring Meeting

May 16-18, 2018
Hilton, Vancouver, WA

Finance and Administration Seminar

June 13-15, 2018
Enzian Inn, Leavenworth

Commissioners Seminar

July 22-24, 2018
Suncadia Resort,
Cle Elum

Small Ports Seminar

October 25-26, 2018
Enzian Inn, Leavenworth

SPOTLIGHT

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Laura will be working with the Association staff and the WPPA Public Relations Committee to develop a communications plan, which will include substantial attention on digital communications and social media information platforms. There will also be substantial improvements to the WPPA website, in order to meet the continued needs of the WPPA's members.

Join us in welcoming Laura to the WPPA team! ■

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Executive Director

Port of Othello

Senior Project Controller (Senior Cost Engineer Scheduler)

Port of Seattle

Safety Program Manager

Port of Longview

Director, Maritime Environmental and Planning

Port of Seattle

Deputy Executive Director

Port of Port Angeles – updated 10-31-17

Executive Director

Humboldt Bay Harbor,
California

Payroll Technician II

Port of Tacoma

Facilities Management Specialist

Port of Tacoma

HR Manager, Labor & Employee Relations

Port of Tacoma

Project Manager II, Engineering

Port of Tacoma

Director, Port Operations

Northwest Seaport Alliance

If you would like information on any of these positions, visit washingtonports.org/washington-ports/employment-opportunities