



999 N. Northlake Way
Suite 223
Seattle, WA 98103

PHONE: 206.406.3922
EMAIL: pschrappen@americanwaterways.com

Peter J. Schrappen, CAE
Pacific Region Vice President & Regional Team Lead

December 6, 2024

Mr. Dean Amundson
United States Coast Guard
Shore Infrastructure Logistics Center
Environmental Division
1301 Clay Street, Suite 700N
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Coast Guard Final
Programmatic Environmental
Impact Statement for Expansion
and Modernization of Base Seattle
(DSS-USCG-2022-15535)

Dear Mr. Amundson:

The American Waterways Operators (AWO) is the tugboat, towboat and barge industry's advocate, resource, and united voice for safe, sustainable, and efficient transportation on America's waterways, oceans, and coasts. Our industry is the largest segment of the nation's 40,000-vessel domestic maritime fleet and moves 665 million tons of cargo each year safely and efficiently. On behalf of AWO's more than 300 member companies, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the expansion and modernization of Base Seattle.

AWO supports the expansion and modernization of the Coast Guard's Base Seattle, given its importance to maritime operations in Seattle, the state of Washington, and throughout the West Coast. The Coast Guard's presence on the Pacific Coast must be modernized to support the agency's maritime safety, environmental protection, and homeland security missions.

The PEIS describes the need for additional pier space to accommodate Coast Guard vessels and increase operational technology at the base. With these advances, the state's almost \$46 billion maritime industry as well as the city of Seattle and the state of Washington will benefit from the Coast Guard's expansion and modernization, with increased safety, security, and economic benefits.

There are many factors that make Seattle an ideal location for an updated and improved Coast Guard base. Seattle is Washington state's largest city and serves as important economic driver for the region and the entire United States. Plus, Seattle's 200 miles of coastline make it an

important strategic maritime hub. The upgraded Coast Guard facility will serve as an anchor for the maritime industry, its customers, and the economy.

For these reasons, AWO fully supports Alternative 1 of the Final PEIS, Modernization with Additional Land and Two Berths at Terminal 46 (preferred alternative).

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input on the expansion and modernization of the Coast Guard's Base Seattle. AWO would be pleased to answer any questions or provide further information as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Schrappe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Schrappe
Vice President – Pacific Region