

January XX, 2024

Senator Marko Liias
Chair
Senate Transportation Committee

Rep. Jake Fey
Chair
House Transportation Committee

Senator Curtis King
Ranking Member
Senate Transportation Committee

Rep. Andrew Barkis
Ranking Member
House Transportation Committee

Dear Chairs Liias and Fey and Ranking Members King and Barkis:

As members of business, labor, maritime, and local government community, we are writing to express our continued support for the on-time completion of the Puget Sound Gateway.

The completion of the Puget Sound Gateway—composed of state routes 167 in Pierce County and 509 in King County—has been a priority for King and Pierce County citizens for decades and was the keystone to the *Connecting Washington* and an essential element in the *Move Ahead WA* package. It is an essential mobility project that finishes a key component of the region's highway network. It is a critical last mile freight connector for Washington goods grown and manufactured across the state seeking access to foreign markets through the ports of Tacoma and Seattle. And it offers important safety improvements relative to surface streets that must be utilized by heavy vehicles today.

We recognize that the state transportation budget continues to face pressures. Budget writers may need to make difficult choices. With that said, we would urge lawmakers to make budget decisions that ensure the Gateway project remains in scope and on schedule. We believe that any disruptions in the continuity of construction creates additional logistical problems to complete the project by 2029 and would unquestionably result in cost escalation. Moreover, WSDOT staff working on the project would likely be reassigned, resulting in a loss of institutional knowledge. And finally, permits and environmental review may age out and need to be renewed further driving up the costs. Delays could also violate terms of agreements with other Project funding partners.

We deeply appreciate the Legislature's commitment to this project as evidenced by the completion of Phase 1A, the funding provided for Phase 1B (currently under construction) and the funding provides for Phase 2 (currently under procurement). We look forward to partnering with you to ensure all aspects of this corridor of statewide significance is finished as currently budgeted.

Sincerely,

1. ABS Valuation
2. Associated General Contractors of Washington
3. City of Des Moines
4. City of Fife
5. City of Lakewood

6. City of SeaTac
7. City of Tukwila
8. Economic Development Board of Tacoma Pierce County
9. Ferguson Architecture
10. Fisheries Supply Company
11. GeoEngineers, Inc.
12. GTM Transformations
13. International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 23
14. International Longshore and Warehouse Union Washington Area District Council
15. International Union of Operating Engineers Local 612
16. Lakeview Light & Power
17. Larouex Gourmet Foods LLC
18. Manufacturing Industrial Council of Tacoma
19. North Seattle Industrial Association
20. Pacific Merchants Shipping Association
21. Pierce County
22. Pierce County Building Trades Council
23. Pierce Transit
24. Port of Tacoma
25. Puget Sound Ports Council, Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO
26. Regional Access Mobility Partnership
27. SAFEBoats
28. Seatown Locksmith
29. Seattle Historic Waterfront Association
30. Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce
31. South Sound Chambers of Commerce Legislative Coalition
32. Tacoma Pierce County Chamber
33. The Northwest Seaport Alliance
34. Washington Asphalt Pavement Association
35. Washington State Farm Bureau
36. Washington State Potato Commission
37. Washington State Tree Fruit Association
38. Washington Trucking Association

CC: Senate Transportation Committee
House Transportation Committee
King County Legislative Delegation
Pierce County Legislative Delegation