



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District

Peter Browning, Second District

Lisa Janicki, Third District

February 23, 2023

Vice Chair Mullet and Ranking Member Schoesler
C/O Senate Ways & Means Committee
416 Sid Snyder Ave SW
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Port of Anacortes T-Dock replacement and upgrade project

Dear Vice Chair Mullet and Senator Schoesler,

The Skagit County Commission would like to express our support for the Port of Anacortes's \$1.5 million funding request for its T-Dock replacement and upgrade project.

Our community has a long and rich culture related to the maritime industry. Today the industry supports nearly 1,200 jobs that pay over \$59 million in wages. Anacortes is home to a diverse range of related industries as well as one of the leading recreational boating marinas in Washington state.

The Port's T-Dock plays a major role in the endurance and diversity of our local maritime economy. It provides low-cost, high-quality access to Fidalgo and Padilla bays for commercial and Tribal fisheries. More than 80% of all seafood landed in Anacortes is attributable to this facility. The dock supports the landing of several varieties of seafood harvested in nearby waters and facilitates an estimated \$14 million in commercial economic activity. T-Dock also provides access for logistics/launch services and spill prevention and response vessels that serve Fidalgo and Padilla bays and nearby industrial businesses.

T-Dock is the only facility of its kind on Fidalgo Island. It has been in continual use since 1977, and despite consistent maintenance, today the dock can support only one-third of its original load capacity. As it nears the end of its useful life, the jobs, commercial activity, and economic benefit it provides are in jeopardy.

The Port's project would double the size of the dock's working surface and provide another 50 years of useful life for T-Dock. We fully support the Port of Anacortes' project and respectfully request your support for the funding needed to recapitalize this critical public asset.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Ron Wesen, Chair



Lisa Janicki, Commissioner



Peter Browning, Commissioner

Cc: Dan Worra, Executive Director
c/o Port of Anacortes
100 Commercial Ave.
Anacortes, WA 98221