



# Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District  
Peter Browning, Second District  
Lisa Janicki, Third District

April 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

## RE: Port of Anacortes T-Dock Reconfiguration Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Skagit Board of County Commissioners write to support the Port of Anacortes' request for \$7,400,000 in funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation Marine Administration Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). The funding will be used to replace and upgrade the Port's 45-year-old T Dock, which is a free and publicly accessible pier approaching the end of its useful life. The replacement project will ensure the continued safe use of the dock while increasing its structural capacity, work area, and dock access. T Dock is central to the City of Anacortes' maritime economy, which supports jobs, industry, Tribal fisheries, and more.

Our community has a long and rich culture related to the maritime industry. Today the maritime industry supports nearly 1,200 jobs paying over \$59 million in wages in Skagit County. 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 is used for loading and unloading Tribal and commercial fishing boats, as well as vessels that support Anacortes' two oil refineries and the wider regional maritime economy. Despite consistent maintenance over the years, the dock can now support only one-third of its original load capacity. The jobs, commercial activity, and economic benefits that the dock provides are in jeopardy if it is not replaced. The key benefits it provides for the community include supporting 80% of the seafood landings in Anacortes, six local tribes, dozens of direct jobs, and \$14 million in annual economic benefits.

The project will meet or exceed the goals of the 2024 PIDP grant program by improving the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the dock's operations supporting the economic vitality of the region, providing port resilience, retaining and creating jobs, and providing environmental benefits through innovative design and stormwater management. A PIDP grant award will provide this rural port with the funding needed to construct critical port infrastructure that supports the region's historically disadvantaged community and Puget Sound-area Tribes.

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' grant application and respectfully request your support for the funding needed to recapitalize a critical public asset.

Sincerely,

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

  
Peter Browning, Chair

  
Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

  
Ron Wesen, Commissioner