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

February 25, 2026

RDML Arex Avanni
District Commander
U.S. Coast Guard Northwest District
915 2nd Ave
Seattle, WA 98174

Re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking;
Anchorage Grounds; Columbia
River, Longview, Oregon and
Washington (USCG-2025-0806)

Dear RDML Avanni:

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. As the largest segment of the nation's 40,000-vessel domestic maritime fleet, our industry safely and efficiently moves 665 million tons of cargo each year and enables the flow of goods through ports on the inland and intracoastal waterways; the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts; and the Great Lakes. On behalf of our over 300 members, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Coast Guard's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for changes to the Longview Anchorage in Longview, WA on the Columbia River (USCG-2025-0806).

AWO confirms our members do not have any current concerns with the proposed changes to the Longview Anchorage or the Federal Channel of the Columbia River to support the Longview Channel Realignment Project.

Our members treat safety as integral to all parts of their operations. Bridge transits are common in our members' operations, and their captains and crews are trained to the highest level to prevent incidents during these transits. AWO supports our members' safe operations around bridges through several initiatives. These include tracking permits for new or modified bridges to ensure they meet operational needs; implementing a drawbridge delay reporting framework to help identify, report, and reduce unnecessary delays; and tracking changes to bridge protection measures and transit policies arising from investigations by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) into the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, MD.

We recognize that as a result of the Key Bridge collapse and subsequent investigations by the NTSB and studies by Coast Guard on bridge safety, there is renewed scrutiny on bridge transit safety. AWO welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the Coast Guard and other stakeholders to thoughtfully consider any necessary changes to bridge transit standards or bridge protections.

The Columbia River System is an integral part of the U.S. inland marine transportation system and in 2023 facilitated the transportation of over 51 million tons of cargo. AWO thanks the Coast Guard for its key role in maintaining this active working waterway and ensuring navigable waterways remain free of unreasonable obstructions to navigation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Docket USCG-2025-0806. AWO would be happy to provide any additional information or participate in further discussions as requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Schrappen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Schrappen
Pacific Region Vice President & Regional Team Lead