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Peter J. Schrappen, CAE
Vice President – Pacific Region

December 16, 2022

Mr. Dean Amundson
U.S. Coast Guard
Shore Infrastructure Logistics Center
Environmental Division
1301 Clay Street, Suite 700N
Oakland, California 94612-5203

Re: Draft Programmatic Environmental
Impact Statement (PEIS); Expansion and
Modernization of Base Seattle (Docket
No. 2022-25825)

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 Draft 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 provide for a high level of safety, protect the environment, and ensure national security.

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 \$38 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

Docket No. 2022-25825

December 16, 2022

Page 2

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 the preferred Alternative 1 of the PEIS, Modernization with Additional Land and Two Berths at Terminal 46.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the expansion and modernization of the Coast Guard's Base Seattle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Schrappe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Peter Schrappe
Vice President – Pacific Region