



755 Winslow Way East
Suite 105B
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Charles P. Costanzo
General Counsel & Vice President – Pacific Region

PHONE: 203.980.3051
EMAIL: ccostanzo@americanwaterways.com

March 15, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of The American Waterways Operators (AWO), I am pleased to express our support for the Washington Department of Transportation's application for 2021 INFRA federal discretionary grant funding for the Salmon Bay Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

The U.S. tugboat, towboat, and barge industry is a vital segment of America's transportation system. The industry safely and efficiently moves more than 760 million tons of cargo each year, including more than 60 percent of U.S. export grain, energy sources, and other bulk commodities that are the building blocks of the U.S. economy. The fleet consists of nearly 5,500 tugboats and towboats and over 31,000 barges. These vessels transit 25,000 miles of inland and intracoastal waterways; the Great Lakes; and the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts. Tugboats also provide essential services including ship docking, tanker escort, and bunkering in ports and harbors around the country.

Built in the early 1900s, the Salmon Bay Bridge is a vital piece of the multimodal network in the Pacific Northwest. It is a double-track lift bridge that supports multimodal transportation for BNSF freight rail, Amtrak intercity passenger trains, and Sound Transit Sounder North commuter rail service. The Salmon Bay Bridge Rehabilitation Project will return the structure to a state of good repair by replacing the lift bridge counterweight and pivot mechanism components, extending its lifespan another 50 years. The height of the bridge and the ability to lift the bridge span allows maritime traffic to pass from Lake Washington and the Lake Washington Ship Canal marine industrial area to Puget Sound and beyond.

The construction plan for this bridge will ensure the continued operational integrity of domestic vessels carrying cargo to Alaska and the North Pacific fishing fleet. The bridge rehabilitation will also preserve marine safety and prevent the build-up of marine traffic waiting for openings and closures during busy summer months. Additionally, the new bridge

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
March 15, 2021
Page 2

will provide better operational capacity to ensure more freight and passengers can move by rail and water and reduce the burden on the regional highway system.

AWO fully supports this INFRA application and recognizes it as an innovative solution to ensure a functional and efficient multimodal transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chal Costanzo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chal" and the last name "Costanzo" clearly distinguishable.

Charles P. Costanzo
General Counsel & Vice President – Pacific Region