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March 14, 2025

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VIA EMAIL

Sheri Tonn
Chair
Washington State Board of Pilotage Commissioners
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Jaimie C. Bever
Executive Director
Washington State Board of Pilotage Commissioners
2901 Third Ave., Ste. 500
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Re: Implementation of RCW 88.16.180

Dear Chair Tonn and Executive Director Bever:

We represent Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), and on behalf of PSP we send this letter. It has come to our attention that the Board of Pilotage Commissioners (Board) intends to consider on March 20, 2025, whether and how to implement RCW 88.16.180 that requires Washington pilots on oil tankers of five thousand gross tons or greater when they travel through U.S. waters by way of the Haro Strait and Boundary Pass. We further understand the Board intends to consider this in a closed session on March 20, 2025. PSP makes two requests of the Board related to this issue.

First, PSP respectfully requests the Board consider the following documents in its closed session deliberations. These are documents that have previously been provided to one or both of you. As a courtesy and for the record, we are again providing them to you with this letter:

- Attachment A: Letter from Clayton L. Diamond, Executive Director-General Counsel of the American Pilots' Association, dated March 7, 2025, addressing the Washington statutory requirement that Washington State-licensed pilots be employed on oil tankers on Haro/Boundary transits;
- Attachment B: 1962 Washington State Attorney General Opinion, provided by Mr. Diamond;

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- Attachment C: Bilateral Cooperation at its Best – Pilotage Along the Canada/US Border, an article provided by Mr. Diamond;
- Attachment D: January 17, 2025, email from Scott Brewen, Executive Director of PSP, to Chair Tonn, addressing this issue;
- Attachment E: February 13, 2025, letter from Ivan Carlson to Jaimie Bever requesting Board direction on how to implement RCW 88.16.180;
- Attachment F: Memo from Mr. Brewen to Chair Tonn addressing the history of RCW 88.16.180.

Second, we request that no later than the April Board meeting, the Board provide its determination on how the statute is to be carried out and provide all rationale supporting the Board's determination. We are concerned about the implications of not following Washington law requiring Washington pilots to be employed on these oil tankers traveling in U.S. waters, and we ask that you provide your determination expeditiously so that PSP can move forward in compliance with the statute or take whatever further action may be necessary.

Sincerely,



Sheree S. Carson

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Attachments