



West Coast Seafood Processors Association
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July 6, 2021

The Honorable Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
RAISE Review Committee
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: CCAD Cargo and Seafood Transfer Facility – DTOS59-21-RA-RAISE

Mr. Buttigieg and the RAISE Review Committee:

On behalf of the West Coast Seafood Processors Association (WCSPA), I am writing in support of the Coos County Airport District's application for the RAISE Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for the construction of a modern cargo and seafood transfer facility. WCSPA represents small, medium-sized, and large seafood processors in all three West Coast states, many of which operate in Oregon. This project is important to the local and regional economy. WCSPA member companies process a suite of seafood products from Dungeness crab, rockfish, Pacific hake (whiting), pink shrimp, salmon, and tuna. Our members depend on access to efficient and reliable transportation options to compete effectively in many domestic and global markets.

The Coos County Airport district serves as a hub for the entire Southern Oregon Coast. This new facility would remove hazardous World War II era-constructed buildings and installations and would open up property for a modern functional cargo storage and transfer facility. This, in turn, will allow for regional seafood harvesters and processors to expand their operations and export their products more effectively, both nationally and internationally.

We continue to seek cost-effective and efficient ways to get our products to our distributors, and to increase our market reach, which has been an ongoing challenge for our industry, especially in this region. This proposed facility, in conjunction with access to industrial-sized freezer and refrigeration space, would help us become more competitive in the seafood market, creating a direct economic benefit for Southern Oregon, which includes Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties.

We are pleased to support this grant application. This is a great way to RAISE our local economy. Feel free to contact me at if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori L. Steele". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Steele
Executive Director