



Nor'wester newsletter

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State Department announces town hall on Columbia River Treaty

The U.S. State Department has announced it will hold a Town Hall next Wednesday, April 25, 2018 from 5:00 - 7:00pm in Spokane at the Davenport Hotel in the Isabella Room. The United States is preparing to begin negotiations with Canada to modernize the Columbia River Treaty. The Town Hall is free of charge and open to the public. U.S. government representatives will review the process and plans for engaging the region. The team will also take questions from the public. Feel free to send questions in advance to ColumbiaRiverTreaty@state.gov. If you are unable to attend in person, you can participate via phone by calling 1-866-340-4886 (toll free) and entering the passcode 372778087#.

PNWA staff and members will be in Spokane that day for Columbia River Treaty meetings, and will also attend the Town Hall that evening. Check out the PNWA fact sheet on the [Columbia River Treaty](#), and for more information, touch base with [Kristin Meira](#).

FAA reauthorization bill introduced in House

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Leaders of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee introduced the bipartisan FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 ([H.R.4](#)), a five-year bill to reauthorize the programs of the Federal Aviation Administration. H.R.4 was introduced by the entire bipartisan leadership of the Committee and its six subcommittees, including Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Aviation Subcommittee Ranking Member Rick Larsen (D-WA).

"I'm glad we finally had the opportunity to come together and introduce a bipartisan, long-term FAA reauthorization bill - a bill that gives the FAA long-term funding it needs to do its job and includes mandates to improve aviation safety, to continue leading the world in aviation research and innovation, and to make needed and targeted reforms to critical aviation programs. This bill will also enhance the air travel experience for the hundreds of millions of U.S. passengers who take to the skies each year," said Ranking Member DeFazio.

"Aviation supports more than 30,000 jobs in Washington State and long-term FAA reauthorization will provide stability and economic growth in the Pacific Northwest," said Ranking Member Larsen. "With this continued commitment to bipartisanship, the difference between the House and the Senate bills is now merely inches apart. I am pleased Congress can move forward on addressing the long-term infrastructure, workforce and aviation safety needs to benefit communities across the U.S."

The bill text, press release, and an explanatory packet can be found on the [Committee's website](#). PNWA supports long-term reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Act, to include maximizing security and efficiency, and modernizing the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) and Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

MARAD announces availability of funding for small shipyards

The Maritime Administration (MARAD), a part of USDOT, has announced the availability of \$19.6 million in federal funding to support capital improvements and employee training at small U.S. shipyards. The grants are provided through the

Small Shipyard Grant Program, and help eligible shipyards modernize operations, increase efficiency and reap the benefits of increased productivity.

Available to U.S. shipyards with less than 1,200 production employees, the grants support a variety of projects, including capital and related improvements, as well as equipment upgrades that foster ship construction, repair and reconfiguration. The grants can also be used to cultivate maritime training programs intended to enhance employee skills and productivity.

Applications for the grants are due by 5 p.m. EST on May 22, 2018. MARAD intends to award grants no later than July 23, 2018. Additional information can be found at <https://www.marad.dot.gov/ships-and-shipping/small-shipyard-grants/> or by contacting David M. Heller, Director, Office of Shipyards and Marine Engineering, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E., Washington, DC 20590; David.Heller@dot.gov.

Port of Newport selects Doug Parsons as General Manager

The Port of Newport has announced Doug Parsons as their new General Manager. Mr. Parsons was most recently the General Manager of Carlisle Energy Services and held leadership roles in both the nuclear and solar energy industries. He is a graduate of Oregon State University and holds advanced degrees from Pennsylvania State University in Nuclear Engineering and Adult Education. PNWA congratulates Doug on his new position, and looks forward to working with him during his tenure with the port.

PNWA celebrates another outstanding Mission to Washington!

We had over 70 attendees this year for the 2018 Mission to Washington to advocate for policies and projects which support economic development in the Pacific Northwest. We spent two days on Capitol Hill meeting with the Northwest Congressional delegation and their staff. We continue to

hear from our partners in the Congressional offices about the impact we made on topics ranging from navigation, transportation, broadband, trade, the Columbia River Treaty, the BiOp and many more. Our agenda at the hotel included many knowledgeable guest speakers. We had the opportunity to hear from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, U.S. State Department Columbia River Treaty negotiator Jill Smail, Appropriations Committee staff, industry leaders from AAPA and NWC, and many more.

Our annual *Taste the Northwest* reception continues to be an impressive event on Capitol Hill. We had a record number of attendees join us as approximately 500 Congressional staff, colleagues and friends stopped by to sample our fine Northwest food and beverages. We sincerely thank our PNWA members who donated items from their communities, making this reception truly unique and representative of our region.

The following organizations helped to make our 2018 Mission to Washington a resounding success:

Gold:

Port of Morrow
Port of Umatilla
United Grain Corporation

Silver:

Columbia River Pilots
Great Lakes Dredge and Dock
Northwest Seaport Alliance
Port of Kalama
Port of Pasco
Port of Portland
Port of Ridgefield
Port of Vancouver
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt
Shaver Transportation
Wapato Valley Mitigation and Conservation Bank

Bronze:

Columbia River Steamship Operators' Association
Ecological Land Services
International Longshore & Warehouse Union, Coast
Longshore Division
Millennium Bulk Terminals
Port of Grays Harbor

Port of Hood River
Port of Lewiston
Port of Longview
Port of Walla Walla
Tidewater Transportation and Terminals

Taste the Northwest Food and Beverage Sponsors

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Port of Bandon
Port of Benton
Port of Cascade Locks
Port of Chinook
Port of Clarkston
Port of Grays Harbor
Port of Hood River
Port of Ilwaco
Port of Kalama
Port of Newport
Port of Siuslaw
Port of Skagit County
Port of Whitman County
Wapato Valley Mitigation and Conservation Bank
Washington State Potato Commission

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