



Nor'wester newsletter

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Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue visits Vancouver; PNWA members and staff participate

Today, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue spent the morning at Port of Vancouver USA, talking to Pacific Northwest port, shipping, and farming representatives about the importance of the Columbia Snake River System to our regional and national ag exports. [Port of Vancouver CEO Julianna Marler kicked off the conversation](#), highlighting the amount of cargo flowing through the port's facilities. [Idaho wheat grower "Potlatch" Joe Anderson shared with the Secretary](#) the importance of the Snake River to shipping Northwest wheat, including 100% of his crop. Additional speakers at the roundtable included Commissioner Eric LaBrant and CCO Alex Strogen of Port of Vancouver, Port of Kalama CEO Mark Wilson, Port of Longview CEO Norm Krehbiel, PNWA President and Shaver VP Rob Rich, Bruce Reed of Tidewater, Augusto Bassanini of United Grain, and Kristin Meira of PNWA.

After the roundtable, the group accompanied Secretary Perdue at a tour of United Grain Corporation to see how barging, Class 1 rail and interstate highways come together at one of the largest grain export facilities on the West Coast. [United Grain COO Augusto Bassanini](#) led the tour, highlighting the recent investments in the facility, and how all transportation modes must function seamlessly to continually provide the U.S. grain products in high demand overseas. Following the tour, the group viewed a Tidewater towboat and barge, where Secretary Perdue heard from Bruce Reed and Rob Rich about the towboat industry's service to inland farming communities.

PNWA was proud to help highlight the value of the river system to our Northwest economy, including the importance of federal infrastructure like channels, locks, and jetties. We look forward to continuing the conversation about all the funding and policy elements that must work together to allow this major export gateway to function efficiently for U.S. producers.

Press coverage: [Vancouver Columbian](#) and [KGW-8](#)



(L to R) PNWA Executive Director Kristin Meira, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, Bruce Reed of Tidewater Barge Lines, Rob Rich of Shaver Transportation/PNWA President



ID wheat grower "Potlatch" Joe Anderson presents a commemorative hat to Secretary Perdue



PNWA Executive Director Kristin Meira speaks to Secretary Perdue



Augusto Bassanini of United Grain explains the terminal's operations to Secretary Perdue

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