



Nor'wester Newsletter

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PNWA concludes a very successful 2017 Summer Conference

Our 2017 Summer Conference was another great event. Over 100 stakeholders, federal agency officials, and industry representatives from across the Pacific Northwest attended the conference in downtown Seattle. The agenda featured twelve presentations on topics ranging from cruise ships and tourism in the Northwest, trends affecting the maritime industry, and the impact of the Columbia Snake River System's extended lock closure. Presentations from our speakers are available for download on our [website](#).

PNWA would like to thank the Port of Seattle/Northwest Seaport Alliance for making our conference so special for our attendees. The Port was an extremely welcoming host and very helpful in planning the details of the event. They also helped to organize a special tour of the Ballard Locks and arranged for bus transport to and from the event for our members.

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PNWA President Capt. Paul Amos welcomes attendees, and our members enjoy a reception by the water



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This year's conference would not have been possible without the generous support of our many sponsors. Their support allowed us to make this event a success and gave us the opportunity to feature so many engaging and informative speakers. We would like to thank the following PNWA members who contributed to this year's summer conference.

Gold Level

Berger Abam
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Port of Grays Harbor
Port of Hood River
Port of Lewiston
Port of St. Helens
Tidewater Barge Lines

Washington and Oregon House members urge President Trump to take action on Columbia River Treaty

On June 21, a bi-partisan [letter](#) from the Northwest House delegation was sent to President Trump, urging the Administration to begin Columbia River Treaty (CRT) negotiations with Canada. Representatives Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR) were joined by Representatives McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), DeFazio (D-OR), Walden (R-OR), Herrera Beutler (R-WA), and Reichert (R-WA). The letter underscores the critical role the treaty plays in the Northwest and the importance of a timely negotiation.

In a statement, Congressman Newhouse said, "renegotiating the Columbia River Treaty has an enormous impact on jobs, hydropower, water storage, flood control, and the environment in the Pacific Northwest." Congressman Schrader agreed, stating, "For more than 50 years, the

Columbia River Treaty has fostered important cooperation between the U.S. and Canada as it relates to flood control, water storage, and clean renewable hydropower."

The letter highlights the important role the Treaty plays in regional hydropower generation and flood control. It also raises the issue of the Canadian Entitlement, in which Canada receives power benefits in return for Canadian water storage. The Columbia River Treaty Power Group estimates that under the current entitlement agreement, the U.S. currently overpays Canada 70-90 percent, totaling approximately \$1.25 billion. While the Treaty's flood control provisions expire in 2024, other elements, including the Entitlement, will continue in the absence of any renegotiation. The letter calls on the Administration to start treaty negotiations with Canada as soon as possible.

PNWA has been very active with the State Department, Corps of Engineers, and our Northwest Congressional delegation throughout the treaty review process, especially with regard to the views of navigation stakeholders. For more information, contact Kristin.Meira@pnwa.net.

Port of Lewiston highlights U.S. grown wheat for overseas buyers

Three groups of wheat buyers recently visited the Port of Lewiston as part of a tour to highlight Idaho-grown U.S. wheat. Teams from Taiwan, Chile and China visited Lewiston to meet with port staff and view the recently completed dock expansion. The groups also visited Bill Flory Farms and the Lewis-Clark Terminal facility to learn how wheat is grown and shipped on the Columbia Snake River System. Safety and quality control of U.S. wheat products were also discussed, as well as the important role that navigation plays in moving products from Idaho to export markets overseas. In 2016, nearly 50% of all U.S. wheat exports moved along the Columbia Snake River System, and all three of these countries remain top markets for wheat originating from Idaho, Washington and Oregon. For more information, visit www.portoflewiston.com. Also be sure to check out [KLEW-TV's video piece](#), which ran during their newscast.

Senators oppose privatizing Bonneville Power Administration's transmission assets

Twenty-one U.S. Senators, including all six from the Pacific Northwest, signed a [bipartisan letter](#) to Secretary Perry to oppose the President's proposal to sell the Department of Energy's Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs) transmission assets. The proposal was laid out in the FY2018 President's Budget as a means to raise revenue, and includes auctioning off transmission assets from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the three other PMAs throughout the U.S.

The PMAs market and transmit power, and are vital to ensuring reliable and affordable power for communities in 34 states. Power rates also pay for investments in the hydropower generating capabilities at the dams, as significant environmental restoration efforts. Privatizing these transmission facilities could significantly impact infrastructure investments in the future, as well as raise power rates and undermine the power grid across the nation. PNWA would like to thank all six of our Northwest Senators for uniting to oppose this proposal, and for their support of BPA and our Northwest power system.

Port of St. Helens Commission selects new Executive Director

The Port of St. Helens [has announced Douglas Hayes as their new executive director](#). Mr. Hayes is retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Army after 20 years of service, including tours in Kosovo and Iraq and at his most recent posting as Battalion Commander at Fort Hood, Texas. Port Commission President Mike Avent noted that "We feel confident that Douglas Hayes is the best fit for the Port and our community to lead the Port into the future." The Port's press release has additional information about Mr. Hayes and the role he will fill at the port following the retirement of the port's former Executive Director Patrick Trapp. PNWA would like to congratulate Mr. Hayes and looks forward to continuing our productive relationship with the port under his leadership.

PNWA Member Spotlight: Foss Maritime

[Foss Maritime Company](#) has been honored for their outstanding safety record by the Chamber of Shipping of America. The Chamber awarded Foss the 2016 Jones F. Devlin award in recognition of the safety record for 65 of Foss Maritime's vessels. The vessels accumulated the equivalent of 549 years of incident free operation, including 20 vessels who had gone more than 10 years without a lost-time worker safety incident. PNWA would like to congratulate Foss Maritime and its workers for this outstanding achievement.



Homeland Security reauthorization bill marked up

Earlier this month, the House Committee on Homeland Security marked up the first Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reauthorization bill since the legislation was enacted fifteen years ago. The bill was initially passed in response to 9/11 to strengthen our borders and national security, and includes funding for the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP). The House DHS bill

would increase funding for the PSGP to \$200 million, a \$100 million increase over current funding levels, but still less than the \$400 million supported by the broader navigation community.

PNWA will continue to monitor developments on this legislation and advocate for increased PSGP funding on behalf of our members. If you have questions, please contact heather.stebbing@pnwa.net.

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Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, 516 SE Morrison Street,
Suite 1000, Portland, OR 97214