



Nor'wester newsletter

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Legislative Update

Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022

On June 13, Congress passed the [Ocean Shipping Reform Act S. 3580](#) following a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bipartisan legislation now heads to President Biden to sign it into law. The legislation is intended to address supply chain challenges and will expand the authority of the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC). Our national port colleagues at the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) [published a position paper](#) on the reasons behind the supply chain congestion and impacts on multimodal freight systems leading to increased detention and demurrage fees. The S. 3580 bill was endorsed by AAPA and allows ports and marine terminal operators to continue to issue detention and demurrage charges but requires new data collection from them related to the amount of time containers and chassis stay there.

Advanced Aviation Infrastructure Modernization (AAIM) Act

Also on June 13, the House of Representatives passed the Advanced Aviation Infrastructure Modernization Act (AAIM) of 2022 [H.R. 6270](#) by a vote of 338 to 73. This bill was sponsored by Rep. Rick Larsen (D, WA-2) and had bipartisan co-sponsorship. This bill directs “the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program to provide grants related to advanced air mobility infrastructure, and for other purposes.” The two year pilot program to improve advanced air mobility (AAM) includes authorization for up to \$25M in grants for safe integration of air mobility vehicles, reduce emissions, and strengthen the U.S. competitiveness in the global aerospace industry.

Federal Columbia River Power System Certainty Act

On June 9, it was [announced](#) the [Federal Columbia River Power System Certainty Act](#) was introduced by Representatives Dan Newhouse (R, WA-4), Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R, WA-5), Jaime Herrera Buetler (R, WA-3), Cliff Bentz (R, OR-2), Russ Fulcher (R, ID-1), Matt Rosendale (R, MT-al), Pete Stauber (R, MN-8), Markwayne Mullin (R, OK-2), Doug LaMalfa (R, CA-1), and Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R, IA-2). The bill would require the Secretaries of Interior, Reclamation, Energy, and the Army (through the Army Corps of Engineers) to “operate the FCRPS in a manner consistent with the reasonable and prudent alternative set forth in the Supplemental Opinion.” The bill also provides a provision to protect power generation and marine transportation on the Snake River by including language that states, “No structural modification, action, study, or engineering plan that restricts electrical generation at any FCRPS hydroelectric dam, or that limits navigation on the Snake River in the State of Washington, Oregon, or Idaho, shall proceed unless such proposal is specifically and expressly authorized by a Federal statute enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Please [contact Dena Horton](#) with any questions.

Governor Inslee appoints Dennis McLerran as chair of the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council



Governor Jay Inslee has appointed Dennis McLerran as chair of the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council, the governing body of the Puget Sound Partnership. McLerran has served as the vice chair of the Leadership Council since December 2021. Jay Manning, chair of the Leadership Council since December 2016, has stepped down from the Leadership Council.

McLerran served as the Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 10, which encompasses Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and Pacific Northwest Indian Country from 2010 until January 2017. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Stockholm Environment Institute U.S., a research affiliate of Tufts University specializing in sustainable development and environmental issues

McLerran's term as chair runs to June 25, 2026. The Leadership Council elected member Will Hall as the new vice chair.

[Click to read the full press release](#) or [learn more about Puget Sound Partnership](#).

EPA Requests Comments on proposed rule to Clean Water Act Section 401

On June 2, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [announced](#) in the Federal Register a [proposed rule](#) to reconsider and revise the [Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Rule](#).



[Click to read the proposed rule.](#)

The EPA is undertaking this effort to comply with [Executive Order 13990](#) Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis. Previously, PNWA staff learned from conversation with other regulatory agency staff that ports will want to pay attention to this proposed rule and weigh in on impacts of implementation. The EPA intends to set up multiple virtual stakeholder engagement events and will publish the schedule of those events [here](#) under the "Upcoming Outreach and Engagement" tab. **Written comments are due by August 2, 2022** and must include Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2021-0302 in the subject line. Comments can be [emailed](#) or submitted through the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#).

The EPA's primary point of contact for questions on this proposed rule is Lauren Kasperek of the EPA's Oceans, Wetlands and Communities Division - Office of Water. If you have any questions, please [email](#) Lauren or call 202-564-3351.

If you have any questions or your port or consultant submits comments on the proposed rule, please share a copy of your comments with [Dena Horton via email](#).

Director of Navigation Policy and Legislation Jim Walker Departing AAPA Government Relations



The [American Association of Port Authorities \(AAPA\)](#) celebrates the long career of Jim Walker, director of navigation policy and legislation, as he retires from the workforce.

During his tenure at AAPA, Jim was responsible for handling waterside infrastructure issues and relevant legislative and regulatory matters, including AAPA's Quality Partnership Initiative (QPI) with the Army Corps of Engineers. He also served as staff liaison to the Harbors and Navigation Committee. Jim's responsibilities at AAPA were considerable and included AAPA's efforts to improve navigation policies, legislation, and funding.

We would like to thank Jim Walker for all his incredible work and wish him well on his transition. His responsive work ethic and deep understanding of the inner workings of the Corps leaves very large shoes to fill both professionally and personally. Best wishes Jim!

Port of Coos Bay seeking to hire Marina Manager

The [Oregon International Port of Coos Bay](#) is seeking to hire a Marina Manager to oversee the successful operation of the Charleston Marina Complex.



The Marina Manager is a member of the Senior Leadership team that sets the strategic direction for the organization, including annual goals and performance measures, and is directly accountable for the overall management and operations of the Charleston Marina Complex. Required qualifications include an in-depth knowledge of harbor and port operations, management and regulations, commercial and recreational vessel operations, project management, budgeting, and accounting, as well as possessing exemplary customer service skills with in-depth knowledge of customer service management.

[Click to view full job announcement.](#)

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