



Nor'Wester Newsletter

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Congressional Record of Support

We would like to acknowledge and thank Hon. Cathy McMorris Rodgers for her support of Eastern Washington.

On November 12, 2024, the Congressional Record was published and includes an extension of remarks from Rep. McMorris Rodgers that recognize the enormous benefits the four Lower Snake River Dams provide for the Pacific Northwest. The Congresswoman felt it was especially important to formally acknowledge that these superhighways are raising the bar everyday for successful fish passage and survival. The countless benefits of our mighty dams cannot be overstated.

[Click to View Congressional Record](#)

More than \$2.3 Billion Available from USDOT for Two Grant Programs

RAISE

USDOT released the [Fiscal Year 2025 NOFO](#) for the Rebuilding American

Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program making at least \$1.5 billion available in two rounds. The criteria for the FY 2025 funding is the same as FY 2024. Any Highly Rated applications not selected under the FY 2024 RAISE NOFO and designated FY 2024 Projects of Merit must simply email USDOT before December 3, 2024 to be considered for the first round. Selections are expected in mid January. Any new applicants and those not selected in the first round must submit applications by January 30, 2025.

PROTECT

The Federal Highway Administration's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program NOFO for fiscal years 2024-2026 makes a total of \$876 million available with \$576 million for FYs 2024 and 2025, and up to \$300 million for FY 2026.

Applications for the FY 2024-2025 PROTECT grant funding are due February 24, 2025.

FHWA is offering two meetings on how to apply:

[Thursday, November 7, 2024 from 1-2 PM ET](#)
[Tuesday, November 19, 2024 from 4-5 PM ET](#)

They are also offering a webinar on preparing a cost benefit analysis for the program application:

[Monday, November 18, 2024 from 2-3:30 PM ET](#)

Election Results

President

Former President Donald Trump (R) was re-elected and will be the 47th President of the United States. The Electoral College vote will take place December 17, 2024 and will be certified by a joint session of Congress on January 6, 2025. The Presidential Inauguration will take place January 20, 2025.

Congress

The 119th Congress will be sworn in on January 3, 2025 and will serve through January 3, 2027. Vice President Kamala Harris (D) will preside over the swearing in of the Senate Members of Congress and Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R, LA-4) will preside over the swearing in of the House Members of Congress.

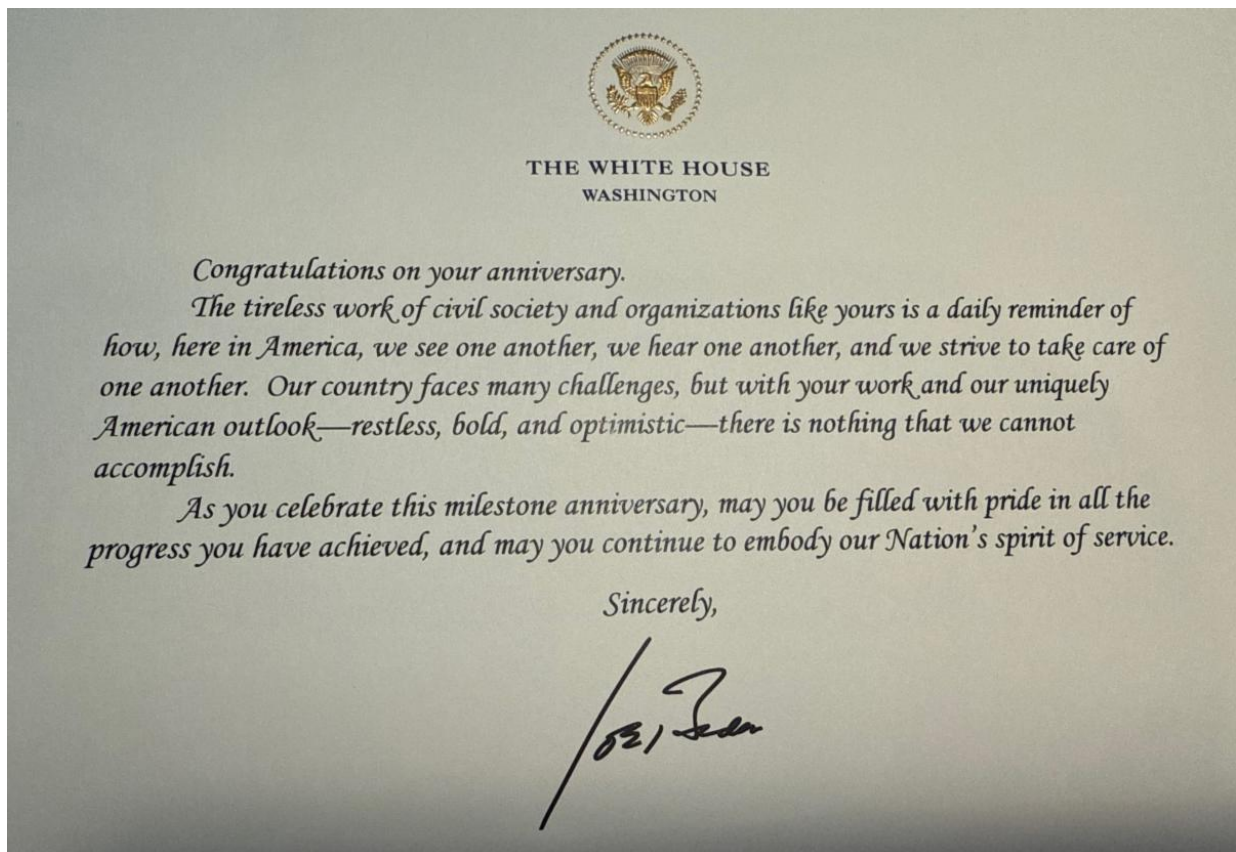
[View full report](#)

Connor, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Stepping down

After three years of distinguished service as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Michael Connor has decided to step down from his position. Assistant Secretary Connor has been a critical member of the Army leadership team and worked tirelessly to advance the Civil Works mission during his tenure. Michael was instrumental in overseeing billions of dollars of infrastructure investments to advance all facets of the Army Corps of Engineers mission-set, including navigation improvements, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration.

[Read Connor Departure Letter](#)
[Read article](#)

Presidential Greeting



In celebration of our 90th Anniversary we were honored to receive a Presidential Greeting offering congratulations on our anniversary. Over the years we have received numerous letters of acknowledgement from Presidents including 1984, 50th Anniversary, Pres. Ronald Reagan; 1994, 60th Anniversary, Pres. Bill Clinton; 2004, 70th Anniversary, Pres. George W Bush; 2014, 80th Anniversary, Pres. Barack Obama; 2024 90th Anniversary, Pres. Joe Biden.

Regulatory Reverberations

There has been another seismic shift in U.S. environmental policy coming from recent court decisions. In a case brought before the DC Circuit Court, Marin

Audubon Society, Et Al. v Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, and National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, the DC Circuit Court decision held that the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) does not have statutory authority to promulgate rules regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and is essentially an advisory body to the President not a regulatory body for federal agencies. The Court determined that regulations promulgated by CEQ are ultra vires (acting outside legal power or authority) and therefore not enforceable. The precedent set by this ruling is a shock to the environmental policy system and the effects of this decision on federal agencies implementing NEPA going forward in the next Administration will no doubt shift even further towards reigning in regulation and agency overreach. Several articles explain the [overview](#) and [nuance](#) of the case and potential issues.

PNWA Comments on IBR Draft SEIS

The I-5 Bridge replacement process has hit a milestone. The Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was [released](#) back in September and comments are due Monday, November 18, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. Pacific time. PNWA staff have participated in the IBR Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) representing river users and multi-modal freight. PNWA submitted public comments on November 13, 2024.

For more information about the IBR Draft SEIS, [click here](#).
To read the Navigation Impact Report, [click here](#).
To read the Ship Simulation Report, [click here](#).

[View IBR Draft SEIS PNWA Public Comment](#)

Cruise boats will call on Port of Lewiston



American Cruise Lines plans to moor in Lewiston and Clarkston in the future when more places to anchor its vessels are ready. Alexa Paoella, spokesperson for the company provided the update at a time when that anew facility for overnight cruise

boats is expected to be finished at the Port of Lewiston in the middle of March, just before the start of the next season, for a route along the Columbia and Snake rivers. Until this project is completed, Lewiston doesn't have facilities geared toward receiving cruise boats. Instead, cruise boats have usually docked at the Port of Clarkston, which has two places for them to dock. One is north of the Holiday Inn and a second at its former crane dock at 14th Street. American Cruise Lines is adding a gangway at a site along the Clearwater River just downstream from Lewiston's railroad bridge on the north side of the waterway.

[Read more at Moscow Pullman Daily News](#)

Member Renewal: Farallon Consulting



Farallon Consulting is a 100 percent employee-owned environmental and

engineering consulting firm founded in 1998, with headquarters in Bellevue, Washington. Our services include environmental due diligence, contaminated site investigation and cleanup, engineering services, natural resources investigations, permits and regulatory compliance, insurance claim evaluation, and mediation and litigation support. Our natural resources team (Grette Associates) specializes in planning and permitting of natural resource and water-related development projects in freshwater and marine environments. Farallon has more than 110 employees in Washington, Oregon, and California.

[*Learn more: Farallon Consulting*](#)

New Member: Northwest Marine Trade Association



The Northwest Marine Trade Association (NMTA) is the country's largest regional marine association. Founded in 1947 to fight a proposed special tax on boaters, the Association quickly expanded its vision of a unified industry by pitching a tent on the

shores of Lake Union and producing the first ever Seattle Boat Show. Today the NMTA has over 600 member businesses from across the United States that include: boat, motor, trailer and marine accessory manufacturers, dealers and brokers, marinas, boatyards, and businesses that provide all types of services to recreational boaters and anglers. NMTA members have access to the NMTA Health Trust, Seattle Boat Show, Anacortes Boat & Yacht Show, Northwest Marina & Boatyard Conference, Superyacht Northwest, and direct NMTA advocacy work in Olympia and Washington, D.C.

[*Learn more: NMTA*](#)

New Member: Green Marine

Incorporated in May 2024, Green Marine International is the governance structure overseeing the environmental certification programs in North America and Europe. Founded in 2007, the Green Marine environmental certification program is the result of a voluntary effort by the shipping industry in North America to go beyond regulations. More than 185 ship owners, ports, terminals, and shipyards



throughout Canada and the United States are currently participating in the program. Launched in 2020, Green Marine Europe currently has 26 ship owners, representing a large and diverse maritime fleet of more than 500 vessels, and three major shipyards in the program.

[Learn more: Green Marine](#)

2025 Mission to Washington, DC



Save the Date!!
March 10 - 13, 2025
Marriott Capital Hill

175 L Street NE Washington, District Of Columbia, USA,
20002

The 2025 PNWA Mission to Washington promises to be an event you will want to attend! Join us in the nation's capital as we meet with lawmakers and their offices to ensure our priorities and issues are top of mind. Throughout the program, participants will gain valuable insights and network with key federal agency officials, industry partners, and DC insiders. In addition, we will spend two days on Capitol Hill meeting with the Northwest Congressional delegation. **Make your plans to join us today!**

[Mission to Washington Event Info](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES



The region has a variety of career opportunities available. Please visit their websites for more information.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration

MARAD is a Federal agency responsible for promoting the development of a strong, sustainable and safe U.S. maritime industry. Our mission is to ensure the U.S. has a strong and viable maritime industry supporting our National security and economic growth.

[Check out their job openings](#)

To submit job postings please email Mary Wiley at mary.wiley@pnwa.net

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Pacific Northwest Waterways Association



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