

## **Resolution of Support Columbia River Channel Deepening Project**

**Whereas** the deep-draft navigation channel in the lower Columbia River is an asset of national significance that provides competitive access to world markets that move an annual average \$14 billion in waterborne cargo; and

**Whereas** the Columbia River deep-draft navigation channel is a major benefit to our regional trade-based economy and to rural and urban communities throughout the Pacific Northwest, providing thousands of jobs and \$208 million dollars annually in state and local taxes; and

**Whereas** there are 40,000 jobs averaging \$46,000 in annual wages that are dependent on maritime commerce along the Columbia/Snake corridor and over 59,000 more jobs that are positively influenced by this maritime activity; and

**Whereas** the federal navigation channel must be maintained at depths adequate to accommodate the deep-draft cargo vessels that increasingly dominate the world fleet; and

**Whereas** it is the top marine transportation priority for lower Columbia River ports to deepen the federal navigation channel from 40 feet to 43 feet; and

**Whereas** the channel deepening project has garnered favorable "no jeopardy" biological opinions by NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will fully comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act; and

**Whereas** this project has been granted water quality and coastal zone management approvals from the state natural resource regulatory agencies in both Oregon and Washington and a Record of Decision (ROD) by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

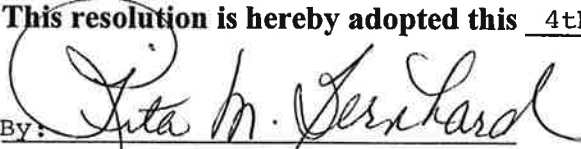
**Whereas** \$55.4 million in state matching funds for this project have been fully appropriated; and

**Whereas** the Columbia River Channel Coalition was organized to build an alliance of organizations and individuals who support an economically viable and environmentally sound plan to deepen and maintain the Columbia deep-draft federal navigation channel to accommodate larger ships and enhance trade and job opportunities; and

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that Columbia County hereby endorses and adds its support to the Columbia River Channel Coalition's efforts and is willing to advise federal elected officials of its support.

**This resolution is hereby adopted this** 4th **day of** February, 2004.

By:

  
Rita Bernhard, Board Chair