

COLUMBIA COUNTY

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February 14, 2026

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, DC 20590

Support for Port of Columbia County FY 2026 BUILD Grant Application

Secretary Duffy:

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the Port of Columbia County's application for funding through the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY 2026) BUILD grant program for the Port Westward Energy Security and Seismic Resilience Modernization Project.

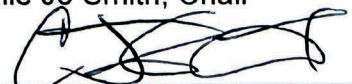
The Beaver Dock at Port Westward is a critical piece of infrastructure supporting energy distribution, regional industry, and maritime commerce. As one of Oregon's five deepwater ports and the state's deepest liquid bulk terminal, the facility plays an essential role in fuel transport and economic activity throughout the Pacific Northwest. Modernizing this World War II-era dock to meet Oregon's seismic resiliency standards under Senate Bill 1567 (2022) is necessary to ensure operational continuity following a major Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake.

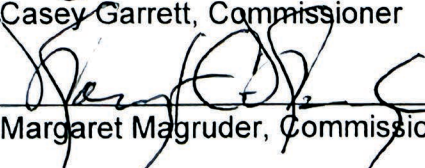
This \$25 million project will strengthen disaster preparedness, protect regional supply chains, and support continued private-sector investment at Port Westward. The Port has already secured \$2.7 million through Connect Oregon 9 and anticipates significant tenant investment. Federal support through the FY 2026 BUILD program is essential to complete design and engineering and advance construction.

We respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON


Kellie Jo Smith, Chair


Casey Garrett, Commissioner


Margaret Magruder, Commissioner