

City of Blaine
Request for Council Action
Meeting Date: February 13, 2023

Subject: Letter of Support for Port of Bellingham Local & Community Project State Grant Application

Department: City Manager

Prepared By: _____
(Digital Signature)

Agenda Location: Consent Agenda Council Action Unfinished Business

Action Requested:

The City Manager respectfully requests that Council consider endorsing a letter of support for the Port of Bellingham's Local & Community Project state grant application.

Attachments:

1. Draft Letter of Support from Blaine City Council

Summary & Background:

The Port of Bellingham intends to submit a grant application to the State for a planning and feasibility study for a Maritime Economics and Research Institute for Sustainability. This study will evaluate the potential for a marine workforce development facility with research and development space designed for innovative and emerging trends in aquaculture. The location of this facility will be evaluated as part of the feasibility study. The state's grant application deadline is February 17, 2023.

Budget Implications: Current Budget New Budget Request Non-Budgetary

The letter of support does not obligate money from the City. Future planning updates, such as an update to the Wharf District Master Plan, may be necessary but are undetermined at this time.

Recommendation:

The City Manager respectfully requests that the City Council approve the letter of support.

Reviewed By:

City Manager _____ Finance Director _____ City Clerk _____
(Digital Signature) (Digital Signature) (Digital Signature)



CITY OF BLAINE

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February 13, 2023

RE: 2023 Legislative Session Member Requested Local Community Project: Maritime Economics and Research Institute for Sustainability – Letter of Support

Dear Legislative Local and Community Project Committee,

Please accept this letter as the City of Blaine's endorsement of support for the Port of Bellingham's Local Community Project grant application for the Maritime Economics and Research Institute for Sustainability.

The funding requested will provide for a planning and feasibility study which allows the Port of Bellingham, with the City of Blaine's support, to determine if it's possible to build a facility that someday could become a pioneering hub for marine workforce development and aquaculture research. Blaine Harbor and the City's Wharf District are uniquely situated to capitalize on the many marine resources of our region and lean into the emerging marine industries of the 21st Century, such as kelp farming & processing, fisheries, and aquaculture. The City of Blaine also has the Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility which produces clean, reclaimed water that could potentially be used in conjunction with seawater for innovative aquaculture research and development.

The City believes this funding application will be used for an important public benefit and to complete a project within the legislative biennium that advances the City's goals related to sustainability, workforce development, education, and environmentally friendly marine dependent uses.

Thank you for supporting this request.

Respectfully,

Mary Lou Steward
Mayor, City of Blaine

Mike Harmon
Blaine City Manager