



Clatsop County
Board of Commissioners

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February 8, 2023

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, enthusiastically supports of the RAISE grant application submitted by the Port of Astoria for the rehabilitation of Pier 2 West. This pier is a major economic driver to the region and the state and is necessary to maintain our rural communities' economic competitiveness.

Pier 2 West needs immediate repair and rehabilitation, as the structural timber components are in poor to critical condition. Large steel plates have been deployed on various portions of the pier deck to cover holes in the asphalt and concrete. The Oregon Dept of Transportation has imposed a 3-ton weight limit. Although these measures allow for continued operations, they present safety concerns and hamper efficient operations.

Pier 2 West fish processing operations play a major role in both the regional and national commercial fishing industry. Production on Pier 2 West contributes almost half of the total Astoria fish landings. Without the working pier, Astoria is susceptible to losing over \$130 million in economic output including the 182 million pounds landed in 2020 (6th in nation).

Failure of the pier would force the relocation of current fish processing operations and significantly increase transportation costs, and associated risks and liabilities. Investing in the pier is effectively investing in our local fish processing industry and the broader rural community we call home.

Thank you for your consideration of the Port of Astoria's application.

Sincerely,

Mark Kujala, Chair
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners