



May 26, 2020

Re: Makah Tribe Oil Spill Response Access Dock Phase II – BUILD 2020 Application

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write in support of the Makah Tribe's BUILD 2020 construction grant application to the US Department of Transportation for an oil spill response dock extension to the Makah Commercial Fish Dock in Neah Bay, Washington. The Makah Commercial Fish Dock was completed in October 2014 as the first phase of a planned two-phased project at a cost of \$12 million to the Makah Tribe. The Makah investment in Phase I funded the base infrastructure for the oil spill extension, which is to be completed in Phase II.

Funding for the construction of this Phase II dock extension will significantly improve services for spill response vessels to respond in the event of a spill incident in the greater Strait of Juan de Fuca and Cape Flattery region on both sides of the US and Canadian border. The Phase II construction will also allow for the quicker transfer of recovered oil products from the vessels and storage barges to land transportation.

Unimpeded access to and the rapid deployment of spill response assets is of vital importance for the Port of Neah Bay to take full advantage of its geographically strategic location in providing regional spill incident coverage for the greater Cape Flattery area. The ability to enhance the spill response infrastructure capacity in this regard also directly supports our nation and State of Washington's ability to meet worst case oil spill scenarios more effectively. The Makah Commercial Fish Dock is the only all-weather port accessible year-round within 100 nautical miles on the outer coast of Washington State. This project is essential to provide adequate protection of the waters that support the Makah Tribe's livelihood, the quality of life of over 8 million residents in the region in both United States and Canada, habitat for many marine species, and a significant portion of Washington State's economy.

I believe this project would be a great asset to the transportation infrastructure in the State of Washington, and I hope you will give this project serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of William Roberts in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Michael O'Connor in black ink.

**William Roberts** | Chief Operating Officer – Foss Maritime Co., LLC  
**Michael O'Connor** | General Manager, PNW – Foss Maritime Co., LLC