



Position Statements

1. **Opposition to Washington’s Globalized SEPA Review Process:** Recent significant changes in how the State of Washington conducts environmental reviews under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) will have damaging long-term consequences for many Washington State industries, and particularly our trade-related businesses and workforce. The implementation of a global EIS review process raises serious concerns and uncertainty about which industries and commodities will be put through this vast, potentially unattainable, and arbitrary review process. We believe it is necessary for Washington to implement an individualized and fair environmental review for proposals establishing a timeline of no longer than 18 months.
2. **Harbor Maintenance Tax:** Since 2003, collections levied on U.S. imports through the Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) have far exceeded funds appropriated for harbor maintenance, resulting in a large and growing “surplus” in the trust fund. Rather than being used for their intended purpose, these user fees are instead used to balance the federal budget each year. Securing full appropriation of all Harbor Maintenance tax revenue from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to ensure adequate maintenance of other relevant issues associated with our regional port infrastructure is critical to maintaining international competitiveness of our ports. It’s important that state and federal infrastructure spending contributes to the improvement associated with natural deep-water ports, like those in Washington State, by addressing other funding needs (i.e. Intermodal, etc.) at those locations.
3. **Fish Consumption Rule:** Washington State is already home to some of most stringent environmental regulations in the country. As Washington’s response to demands for improved water-quality standards and rulemaking proceeds, the state must be mindful that further expansion of authority to agency regulators would threaten thousands of jobs in Washington. By implementing standards that are unpredictable and driven by politics rather than sound policy, we would considerably limit our state’s ability to attract new business and new jobs. The overly aggressive and arbitrary rules would hurt not only prospective business, but would also create huge regulatory barriers for companies currently operating within Washington that already are meeting and/or exceeding environmental regulation standards for responsible corporate stewardship.