



To whom it may concern,

March 31, 2023

I am writing a supporting letter on behalf of the Puget Sound Pilots rate hearing to take place in front of the UTC.

My name is Michael Ross, and I am currently the Foreign Flag representative on the Puget Sound Pilots (PSP) Board of Commissioners (BPC) as appointed by the Governor of the State of Washington. I am currently employed with Westwood Shipping Lines as Vice President of Vessel Operations and Vessel Safety.

Given my association and familiarity with the PSP and the working meetings with the BPC as a commissioner, I would like to go on record by saying how important the PSP is to our State and local economy. It is important to note that fair compensation and working rules for these resolute individuals be considered. Current and future pilot manning levels are front of mind. While present-day commercial needs are important, we also have to look forward to the future so new and qualified talent is attracted to the region to fill these challenging jobs. The marine industry, specifically, the manning qualifications are only going to get more complex given training, rest periods, commercial needs, and regulatory requirements, as such the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission needs to be mindful of such challenges ahead.

PSP does all it can to work as efficiently as possible in an environment that is constantly changing due to no fault of anyone but the nature of the business itself and the complexities placed upon them. While not perfect, the PSP association is working with the BPC and others to find reasonable and lasting solutions. This work is not easy but needs to be continued by all involved in good faith.

Members of the PSP association are also contributing to our local community on their own time in the form of outreach programs for our young people. They are immersed in our local middle and high schools talking to students about the opportunities in the marine industry, vessel safety, and maritime collages to enlighten and encourage our future mariners. This initiative is important so a more diverse core of mariners can be reached in the future. As such, I am a supporter of the efforts being demonstrated by the PSP and supported by the BPC and should be considered for purposes of this hearing.

Captain Mike Ross
VP Marine Operations and Vessel Safety
1019 39th Ave SE
Suite 210
Puyallup, WA 98374
253-200-3769 (o)
253-268-8206 (m)

www.wsl.com

