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STATE OF WASHINGTON
BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS

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December 17, 2024

Utilities and Transportation Commission
Attn: Jeff Killip, Executive Director and Secretary
C/O Scott Sevall, Analyst, Water and Transportation at scott.sevall@utc.wa.gov

Regarding: BPC Request for Training Surcharge Increase in the Puget Sound Pilotage District Tariff

To Whom It May Concern,

At the November 21, 2024 Regular Public Meeting of the Washington State Board of Pilotage Commissioners (BPC or Board), the Board approved a request to the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC or Commission) to increase the Training Surcharge portion of the Puget Sound Pilotage District Tariff. The approved increase is for adding a simulator training component to the Pilot Training Program, procuring professional services for ongoing psychometric review/validation and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion services for the Marine Pilot Exam process and Pilot Training Program, and for Board future consideration of a Cost-of-Living increase to the Training Stipend. The Board-approved justification memo is attached.

Per [RCW 81.116.020](#) (4), in setting tariffs, the Commission must include a tariff surcharge to fund the stipend the board of pilotage commissioners is authorized to pay to pilot trainees and to use in its pilot training program under [RCW 88.16.035](#).

Due to our area's cost of living increases, an increase in authorized pilot licenses, changes in rest rules, retirements, and a small national pool of qualified pilot aspirants, it is imperative that Washington state's pilotage districts continue to offer a first-rate pilot training program to attract and prepare pilot trainees for piloting in Washington's inland waters. It is also important to lessen the financial burden on trainees during this critical phase in their careers. During training, trainees who accept a stipend cannot hold any employment.

The Board approved the Training Surcharge increase from \$19.00/trainee/assignment to **\$23.00/trainee/assignment**. The pass-through cost of the tariff which goes to trainees would increase from \$13.50/ trainee/assignment to \$16.00/trainee/assignment. The amount to BPC activities would increase from \$5.50/trainee/assignment to \$7.00/trainee/assignment. The proposed surcharge increase would provide about an extra \$108,000 to fund the BPC training program initiatives listed above and provide the funding for a potential stipend

increase to assist pilot trainees with transitioning from their established careers to training in the Pacific NW.

Per [RCW 81.116.010](#), the BPC and the UTC are defined separately from "persons with substantial interest". It is our assumption that requesting this change in the training surcharge will NOT freeze the tariff for 12 months as it would if we were defined as a "person with substantial interest". It is NOT our intention to freeze the tariff or impact any person with substantial interest from the ability to file a tariff change within the next 12 months.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaimie C. Bever". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jaimie C. Bever
Executive Director

cc: Sheri Tonn, Chair, Board of Pilotage Commissioners
Captain Ivan Carlson, President, Puget Sound Pilots
Scott Brewen, Executive Director, Puget Sound Pilots

Encl.

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