

Comment

190976 Peter Schrapp...

Owner

 Andrew Roberts

Comment Information

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name Peter Schrappen

Contact Method Email

Email Peter@Nmta.net

Business Phone

Mobile Phone

Address 1: Street 1 1900 N Northlake Way, Suite 233

Address 1: Street 2

Address 1: City Seattle

State/Province WA

**Address 1:
ZIP/Postal Code** 98103

Details

Comments

I am providing public comment on behalf of the Northwest Marine Trade Association (NMTA). This trade association represents 725 member businesses and works to grow the state's \$7 billion boating economy in Washington state.

We understand Puget Sound Pilots, a well-respected association in their own right, filed a petition for tariff revision on November 20, 2019, seeking a significant increase in the tariff rate. While we are not requesting to be part of the formal proceedings regarding this tariff revision petition, we do wish to provide public comment. Also, we want to let you know that a formal party (Pacific Yacht Management) is a member in good standing with NMTA. The vessels serviced by our members are used for recreational activities, are not always registered in Washington State, and simply transit our state en route to British Columbia and Alaska. As such, in most instances these vessels have the option to bypass Washington State altogether and simply continue into British Columbia and/or Alaska. While Puget Sound provides an unparalleled suite of services for these vessels, captains and vessel owners must consider all "discretionary" expenditures when formulating operational plans. The cost of pilotage is certainly something they must consider. It is our opinion that increasing pilotage rates for recreational vessels at this time is not necessary and in fact would create a disincentive for recreational vessels to seek services in Puget Sound.

Given the current economic climate, we feel that any additional costs that act as a deterrent to

recreational vessels seeking services in Puget Sound would not only negatively impact our business, but would also have a negative impact on Washington State as recreational vessels may simply forgo the state and continue their journey to British Columbia and/or Alaska.

As such, we oppose the Puget Sound Pilots tariff revision petition. We appreciate your consideration of our position and would be happy to provide any additional information at your request. Thank you in advance. In closing, I would hope that these comments add to the consideration of this important topic. We enjoy our working relationship with the Puget Sound Pilots but do believe that this increase would give boats one more reason to not visit and thus get their boats repaired here by NMTA's members.

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Related Case Information

Case Number  [190976](#) **Case Title** Puget Sound Pilots

Owner  [Andrew Roberts](#) **Staff Case Lead**  [Danny Kermode](#)

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