From: Kari Nore
To: Public Involvement (UTC)
Cc: Kati Capozzi
Subject: Docket TP-250574 Public Comment Letter from the Alaska Chamber
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 12:12:44 PM
Attachments: Outlook-yedlkhmo.png
PSP Rate Increase Letter 1.13.2026.pdf

External Email

Good morning,

Please see the attached public comment letter from the Alaska Chamber on the Puget Sound Pilots Request to Increase Pilotage Rates, Docket TP-250574.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Kari Nore

Kari Nore
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ALASKA CHAMBER

January 13, 2026

Brian Rybarik, Chair
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Delivered via *comments@utc.wa.gov*

RE: Public Comment on Puget Sound Pilots Request to Increase Pilotage Rates, Docket TP-250574

Dear Mr. Rybarik:

The Alaska Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Puget Sound Pilots' (PSP) proposed revisions to the Puget Sound Pilotage District, currently under review by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC). The Chamber recognizes the essential role PSP plays in maintaining safe and secure navigation in the region. However, we have significant concerns regarding the magnitude and abrupt implementation of this proposed rate increase that would create serious ripple effects across the broader business community that relies on predictable, efficient maritime transportation.

The Alaska Chamber is Alaska's most diverse statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state, directly representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and $4.6 billion in wages.

A rate increase of this scale would significantly raise costs for Alaska-bound cargo carriers and cruise operators, disrupting long-standing budgets, contracts, and supply chains that serve Alaska businesses and consumers. The Puget Sound is a vital gateway for Alaska's economy, supporting everything from essential goods and fuel to tourism and visitor-related commerce. Sudden and disproportionate cost increases threaten Alaska's competitive position, risk higher prices for consumers, and create uncertainty that undermines investment and long-term planning across multiple industries.

The Alaska Chamber urges careful scrutiny of the proposed rate increase and encourages a more measured, collaborative approach that preserves maritime safety while maintaining fair, reasonable, and predictable costs for the businesses and communities that depend on this critical transportation corridor.

Thank you for considering the Alaska Chamber's comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Kati Capozzi
President and CEO

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