From: Ndambuki, Ivy on behalf of Lovelett, Sen. Liz
To: Public Involvement (UTC)
Subject: Puget Sound Pilots Tarriff Adjustments Letter of Support
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 2:36:54 PM
Attachments: image002.png
Puget Sound Pilots UTC Rate Case Support Letter.pdf

External Email

Honorable Members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,

Attached please find a letter in support of appropriate adjustments to the Puget Sound Pilots tariff in Docket 250574

Warmly,

Senator Liz Lovelett
40th LD | Anacortes
(360) 786-7678
John A. Cherberg 233
Senate Deputy Majority Leader
Vice Chair- Local Government
Environment, Energy & Technology
Transportation

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Womenoffshore.org
hello@womenoffshore.org
Offshore Careers Start Here.

Women Offshore Foundation
1817 Sharp Place
Houston, Texas 77019

January 3rd, 2026

Washington State Utilities and the Transportation Commission
Attn: Commissioners

Reference Docket TP-250574

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of Women Offshore to express our support and provide perspective for the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission's review of pilotage rates under Docket TP-250574.

Women Offshore is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting professionals who work on the water. Our work is informed by the lived experience of mariners across the United States, including those who serve in high-responsibility roles such as pilotage. Through our programs and direct engagement, we understand the demands and accountability associated with this profession.

Maritime pilots play a critical role in managing navigational risk in complex waterways such as Puget Sound. Their work directly affects vessel safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of port infrastructure. Pilots routinely operate in high-traffic, limited-maneuvering environments with variable weather and large vessel drafts, where the consequences of error are significant.

Through our career development, mentorship, and scholarship programs, Women Offshore works directly with mariners as they move from early career roles into positions of greater responsibility. We see individuals weighing whether to pursue paths such as pilotage and other safety-critical roles, or to step away from those tracks altogether. Compensation that reflects responsibility is often part of those decisions.

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Independent research cited in this proceeding reinforces what mariners encounter firsthand: experienced pilots materially reduce risk in complex operating environments. This context is important when considering the level of responsibility pilots bear and the expertise required to perform the role safely.

From our perspective, compensation is an important factor in attracting and retaining qualified professionals. When compensation does not reasonably align with responsibility, it can create challenges for workforce stability and safety over time. We understand that Puget Sound Pilots are seeking compensation aligned with the U.S. national average, not premium or top-tier rates.

The responsibilities assumed by Puget Sound pilots warrant compensation that reflects the skill, experience, and risk inherent in the role. Despite operating in one of the highest-cost-of-living regions in the country, the request before the Commission is limited to alignment with the U.S. national average.

Women Offshore supports compensation structures that reflect the role professional expertise plays in maintaining safety. Competitive, market-aligned compensation supports workforce continuity and helps sustain the high safety standards expected in Washington's waterways.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this perspective. We appreciate the Commission's consideration.

Respectfully,

Ally Tenorio

Ally Tenorio
Founder and President
Women Offshore