**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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Legislative Building

**Washington State Legislature**

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Attn: Jeff Killip, Executive Director and Secretary
621 Woodland Square Loop S.E.
Lacey, WA 98503

Re: Docket 250574 - Puget Sound Pilots Tariff

Dear Executive Director Killip and Commissioners:

We write in support of appropriate adjustments to the Puget Sound Pilots tariff in Docket 250574.

The Legislature directed Washington's pilotage rates be set by the Utilities and Transportation Commission in a manner that is fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient to support safe and reliable pilotage service. Encouraging the Commission to give meaningful weight to the evidence in this rate-setting process is consistent with the support the Washington State Legislature has shown for the Puget Sound Pilots in protecting Puget Sound and the citizens of Washington.

It is critical that Washington pilots are provided with comprehensive training, sufficient rest, and compensation that is competitive with other pilotage districts and states. Pilots carry extraordinary responsibilities: routinely boarding ships on exposed pilot ladders in all weather, accepting substantial personal and financial liability, and maneuvering increasingly large vessels through waterways and port infrastructure that were not designed for ships of today's size.

Washington is among the most trade-dependent states in the nation; every loaded tanker, cruise ship, and deep-draft cargo vessel guided by a Puget Sound Pilot carries both economic opportunity and enormous risk for our coastal and tribal communities, fisheries, small businesses, and taxpayers. To safeguard these interests, the Commission should support a stable, well-funded pilotage system that is essential to the protection of Puget Sound.

The beneficiaries of a safe, well-funded pilotage system are the people of Washington State whose waters and shorelines are protected from catastrophic incidents.

The Commission should approve rates that are sufficient to attract and retain a robust, diverse, and highly qualified pilot corps capable of providing safe, reliable pilotage service in all conditions. Washington's economy and coastal environment depend on such a system.
Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for your work on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Senator Liz Lovelett
40th Legislative District

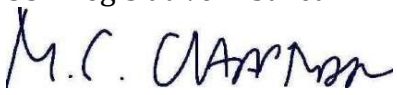
Sen. Marko Liias
21st Legislative District

Sen John Lovick
44th Legislative District

Rep. Andrew Barkis
2nd Legislative District

Rep. Alex Ramel
40th Legislative District

Sen. Drew MacEwen
35th Legislative District

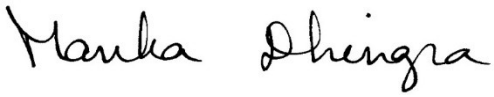


Senator Mike Chapman
24th Legislative District

Senator Claire Wilson
30th Legislative District

Rep. Debra Lekanoff
40th Legislative District

Senator Jamie Pedersen
43rd Legislative District



Sen. Manka Dhingra
45th Legislative District

Senator Deborah Krishnadasan
26th Legislative District

Senator T'wina Nobles
28th Legislative District

Sen. Bob Hasegawa
11th Legislative District