



**Coalition  
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New  
England  
Companies for  
Trade**

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FBB Federal Relations

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao

Secretary

United States Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, D.C. 20590-7202

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Coalition of New England Companies for Trade, I am very pleased to express my support for the application submitted *to the* 2019 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) by the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), an operating partnership between *the ports of Seattle and Tacoma*. The NWSA Gateway is a vital resource for many of the cargo importers and exporters located in New England, and an integral element in their supply chain systems.

In this application, the NWSA and marine terminal operator SSA Terminals are seeking funding to help revitalize NWSA's Terminal 5 (T-5) in Seattle Harbor. Terminal 5 has been mostly dormant since 2014, when the ocean carriers calling at T-5 abandoned the terminal because it was unable to serve the larger container vessels that have become standard in the global shipping industry.

It is important that the U.S. maintains a world-class container trade gateway in the U.S. Pacific Northwest. Businesses in our industry rely on the NWSA to access international markets and will benefit from this effort to modernize T-5.

The infrastructure investments proposed by the NWSA and SSA Terminals will not only improve the efficiency, safety, and resiliency of T-5 operations, but will also enable the terminal to host some of the world's largest container ships. This potent combination of improvements will in turn reduce shipping costs and speed time to market, generating a positive return for our industry and for the U.S. economy overall.

I believe that the NWSA and SSA Terminals are exceptionally well qualified to lead the proposed activities. NWSA is the nation's fourth largest *container port complex overall and the top-ranked U.S. seaport in refrigerated exports*. SSA is the largest marine terminal operator in the Americas, with vast experience in executing capital improvement projects and efficient terminal operation. Together, they form a powerful team capable not only of planning such an ambitious and important project, but also of executing it in a timely, cost-effective manner.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to fund the T-5 Project. If you have any questions about my support for it, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Sincerely,*

*Luiz da Costa*

Luiz da Costa  
CONNECT President  
Takeda Pharmaceuticals International Ltd  
Director, Global Import/Export & Trade Compliance, Global Clinical Supply Chain