



Exhibit	"A"
Port Commission	Regular
Meeting of	January 4, 2011

4 January 2011

Port of Seattle  
2711 Alaskan Way  
Seattle, WA 98121

Dear Commissioners and Mr. Yoshitani –

We are writing you today to express our concern about the Port's commitment to maintaining its environmental leadership in the coming years. Our concerns are highlighted in two specific current issues of concern: the Cruise MOU amendment process and the budget allotment

Friends of the Earth (FoE) is a national environmental organization that works to protect the environment and champion a healthy and just world. FoE's Oceans & Vessels project campaigns to protect human health and the marine environment from the substantial air, water, and oil pollution generated by cruise ships, container ships, oil tankers, tugs, and ferries, as well as port facilities. FoE has maintained a presence in the NW for over 30 years.

### **CRUISE MOU**

We are concerned about the annual review and update of the cruise ship MOU between the Port, the NW Cruise Association and Department of Ecology. The problems associated with the current MOU were known prior to the beginning of this past cruise season. While the Commission has twice discussed how the MOU will be updated in the future, it has yet to vote on a resolution regarding this matter nor have the results of the past cruise season been discussed publicly. While there was a presentation on the Port's ABC fuels program at the last Commission meeting of 2010, there has been no discussion of the labor problems resulting in very little cold ironing occurring this past season or how it will be avoided in the future.

On December 28<sup>th</sup> we received an email from Ecology notifying us of the annual MOU meeting January 13<sup>th</sup>. We were dismayed to read, "The MOU parties have agreed to amend the MOU very shortly to outline an amendment process. With the new process, we will be receiving proposed amendments with a public process beginning in November of 2011 and every three years thereafter." We find such a statement premature given that the Commission has yet to vote on the proposed changes and this would preclude resolving the longstanding issues mentioned below.

While we are open to discussing lengthening the amount of time between updates of the MOU and a more systematic method to the amendment process, we first need to see a greater commitment from the MOU parties to timely public transparency of MOU compliance issues. We also need to finally resolve how the incineration of sewage sludge will be addressed. We believe it is more efficient to make sewage sludge a part of the MOU rather than the NW Ports Clean Air Strategy. The sludge generated onboard is a result of the operation of the sewage treatment system and Ecology is already boarding vessels and can request the logs to assure that the incinerators are not being used in State waters. We also request that the ban on wastewater discharges at the dock to be codified in the MOU rather than being subject to individual cruise line preferences each season.

### **Budget**

It is disturbing to see disproportionately large reductions in non-operational environmental and public expenses in the 2011 budget the Commission just approved. We would greatly appreciate an explanation of how a \$36 million reduction in those budgets will affect the Port's commitment to maintaining its environmental programs, especially in light of the need for increased spending for environmental cleanups and source control in the Duwamish and in East Waterway in the near future.

Thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you to maintain your leadership in the region's economy and environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Felleman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Fred Felleman, MSc.  
NW Consultant  
Friends of the Earth

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