

Good afternoon Commissioners and Executive Director Metruck

My name is Meagan McGuire. I am the Vice President of Sales and Services for the Seattle Southside Regional Tourism Authority.

I am here to speak in favor of the request for \$5.6 million to begin the design work for a new cruise terminal in Elliott Bay.

This is a sound investment and provides the additional infrastructure for what has become an integral part of the tourism industry for Seattle, the Puget Sound, and all of Washington state.

As a result of the continued and strong growth in cruising from Seattle, our hotel partners continue to benefit directly.

Seattle Southside Hoteliers realize stronger room occupancies because cruise travelers spend additional time in the area before or after their Alaska cruise.

As a destination marketing organization, we are also very appreciative of your Tourism department's continued commitment to promote cruise and stay experiences for all of Washington to both the international and domestic travel trade and travel media.

We fully support your work to develop another cruise terminal and appreciate your ongoing commitment to grow tourism state-wide.

Thank you for your time.