



July 8, 2024

Mrs. Diahann Howard, PPM®, PDX Executive Director
Port of Benton
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Subject: Installation of Shore Power at the Port of Benton's Barge Complex at Columbia River Mile Post 343

Diahann,

Foss Maritime is pleased to extend our support for the Port Electrification Program Grant from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). We understand that this grant program is exclusively available to public port districts and is funded by the Carbon Emissions Reduction Account established under the Washington Climate Act of 2021.

The objective of this project is to provide shore power to the Port of Benton's barge complex. This initiative is particularly beneficial as the Port of Benton plans to pursue commercial use of the high dock, including engagement with the Columbia River cruise industry. By installing shore side power for vessels utilizing the facility, this project will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Additionally, cruise lines will make use of the berth during the cruise season, thereby enhancing the port's commercial activity and contributing to environmental sustainability.

We fully support the Port of Benton's efforts and commend their comment to both short-term and long-term goals. Their dedication to reducing emissions while fostering economic growth aligns with Foss Maritime values and future goals.

Sincerely,

Jeff Horst

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