

**Testimony of Robert Edwards
Chair, Port Commission**

**U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
Seattle, Washington
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On behalf of myself, my colleagues in the Seattle Port Commission, and the entire Port of Seattle organization, I want to welcome you here to Seattle and the Port of Seattle and to our headquarters for the Port of Seattle here at Pier 69. It is an honor to welcome the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. And I wanted to give special thanks to two members from Seattle, Marc Hershman and Bill Ruckelshaus. We appreciate you including this visit to Seattle as part of your effort to develop national policy recommendations.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, you will find some of the most important and productive ocean habitats and many significant success stories. We know of the challenges you face in coming up with recommendations that balance the many interests who have a stake in the ocean and coastal regions. A big part of the history and heritage of the Pacific Northwest is closely tied to the ocean, rivers, and streams. Recognizing that our actions today will affect future generations, the people of this region have a strong commitment to be good stewards of the environment.

I would like to give you a few examples. The Terminal 5 redevelopment and clean up, a Superfund site which many of you saw, is something that the Port of Seattle and the people of King County are particularly proud of. There are regional efforts to protect the Chinook salmon, yet unfinished, by elimination of untreated sewage discharges and cooperative clean up of the lower Duwamish River. I am pleased to say it supports one of the region's largest salmon runs. The lead story of course is the rescue of a young orca near San Juan Island, even supplanting baseball.

It takes cooperation and partnership to achieve these successes. We have strong relationships among other ports, our local governments, Native American tribes, industry regulators, and community leaders. Working together, I have a lot of confidence that we can find solutions that would allow our economy to grow and protect the environment that we all cherish.

And once again, welcome to Seattle. I wish you Commission members good luck in the hard work you have ahead.
Thank you.