

**JEFFERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CONSENT AGENDA REQUEST**

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Mark McCauley, County Administrator

**DATE:** November 7, 2022

**RE:** Letter of support: Port of Port Townsend 2022 Boating Facilities Program  
Grant Application: Herb Beck Marina Boat Launch Replacement Project

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**STATEMENT OF ISSUE:**

The Port of Port Townsend is submitting a grant application through the 2022 Boating Facilities Program Grant Program and has asked Jefferson County for a letter of support.

**ANALYSIS:**

A proposed letter of support is attached for Board consideration.

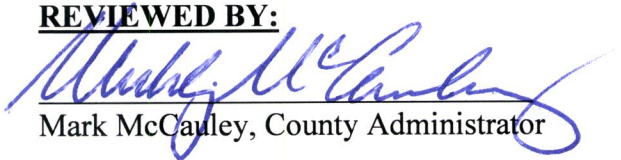
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

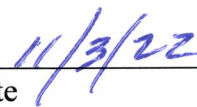
None.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Commissioners approve and sign the letter of recommendation.

**REVIEWED BY:**

  
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

  
Date



Board of County Commissioners  
1820 Jefferson Street  
PO Box 1220  
Port Townsend, WA 98368

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Kate Dean, District 1   Heidi Eisenhour, District 2   Greg Brotherton, District 3

November 7, 2022

Ms. Andrea Hood, Outdoor Grants Manager  
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office  
P.O. Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re:    Port of Port Townsend 2022 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application  
      Herb Beck Marina Boat Launch Replacement Project

Dear Ms. Hood,

Jefferson County wishes to express its strong support for the Port of Port Townsend's 2022 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application for the necessary funding to replace and enhance the Herb Beck Marina Boat Launch. The Herb Beck Boat Launch provides the only public recreational boating access directly serving Quilcene and Dabob Bays. However, it is deteriorating, steep, difficult to use, and not compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). With your support, the Port will replace the existing ramp with a new ADA-accessible launch including the addition of an ADA-compliant handling float. The proposed grant would also support the renovation of the current restroom facilities and improvements to the parking lot serving the ramp. Both of these would be renovated to be ADA-compliant ensuring a seamless transition and access to the water for all recreational boaters.

Rehabilitation and improvement of the Herb Beck Marina Boat Launch, restrooms and parking area were identified as community priorities through the county-wide stakeholder input process to update the Port's Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements. The Port has also undertaken a series of public meetings over the past year and a half with Quilcene community members, and the community actively supports the Port's efforts to obtain grant funding to ensure the future of this recreational boating and essential community asset.

The Herb Beck Boat Launch provides access to year-round productive fishing locations and serves the residents of Jefferson, Clallam, and Mason Counties, all rural distressed areas. This funding will allow the Port to replace the existing deteriorated ramp with a new wider, less steep ramp and add an ADA-compliant handling float. This project will provide safe public access at the Herb Beck Marina for the first time to individuals with disabilities. The addition of a handling float will also improve boat launching and retrieval operations at the facility in several aspects. It will allow a wider range of trailer boats to safely use the facility and provide a place for boaters to temporarily tie up boats while retrieving their trailers. In addition, planned upland improvements will greatly enhance the recreational boater experience.

The Herb Beck Boat Launch provides the only direct public access to a hidden gem in Washington State, the waters of Quilcene and Dabob Bays. It also provides one of the few public access points to the waters of the Hood Canal for residents of and visitors to Washington's State. Securing the future of this facility and providing accessibility for individuals with disabilities is essential. Jefferson County wholeheartedly supports the Port of Port Townsend's 2022 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jefferson County Commissioners

Kate Dean  
District 1

Heidi Eisenhour, Chair  
District 2

Greg Brotherton  
District 3