

Sent via email

February 3, 2022

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister, Environment and Climate Change Canada
steven.guilbeault@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
francois-philippe.champagne@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Mary Ng
Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development
mary.ng@parl.gc.ca

Re: Support for Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project

Dear Minister Guilbeault, Minister Champagne, and Minister Ng,

On behalf of the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express support for the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project.

For 50 years, the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce has been the largest business association serving Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore, and Belcarra, in Metro Vancouver. We represent 800+ businesses from every sector, most of whom qualify as small- to medium-sized businesses.

The Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project would be considerably beneficial to Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, and Port Moody, ensuring that we are able to meet the urgent need to increase container capacity and secure Canada's trade competitiveness on the Pacific Gateway for decades to come.

The unprecedented events of the pandemic have shown what congestion in the Pacific gateway could look like in the future without additional marine-side capacity. The capacity of west coast ports to serve long-term growth is quickly becoming constrained. Increased container dwell time, additional anchorage requirements due to terminal congestion, and a lack of empty containers available for exports could become the new normal for Canadian businesses in the coming years.

Canada's competitive position is also at stake as increasing congestion at west coast terminals will undermine the port's reliability, impacting Canada's trade growth, and forcing a reliance on foreign supply chains and U.S. ports for containerized imports and exports.

The Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project is essential to meeting Canada's trade ambitions. The project will deliver 2.4 million TEUs of container capacity, which will bolster the West Coast's trade competitiveness for decades to come, while staving off the possibility of serious congestion and supply chain disruptions in the Pacific Gateway.

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By increasing capacity, the terminal will provide more flexibility for importers and exporters, and ensure that products can continue to be shipped through Canada. The alternative is cargo being rerouted to U.S. ports, which would increase costs to importers and exporters, and reduce benefits to the Canadian economy.

With the Tri-Cities being one of the fastest growing regions in Metro Vancouver, it is crucial that the flow of goods from ports in the west coast is free of disruptions to ensure that our communities can have access to the goods they need, in a timely manner, and at affordable prices. We are quickly growing as a hub for many new businesses who rely on the ability to both import and export goods as efficiently as possible. Additionally, the port authority is an important part of our community. Across the Tri-Cities, port activities annually support 4,400 jobs, \$295 million in wages, and over \$1 billion in economic activity, while supporting our local business improvement associations.

Through the six-year construction period, the project would contribute 13,841 person-years of employment and approximately \$1.3 billion in labour income to the provincial labour economy. Additionally, it would account for an estimated \$1.8 billion in GDP for British Columbia.

Once operational, Roberts Bank Terminal 2 would represent 12,380 person-years of employment and roughly \$1.9 billion in GDP, annually. This would provide a significant boost to the provincial economy, as well as labour markets, as we seek to recover and grow economically post-COVID.

As you will know, the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project has undergone an extensive and thorough environmental assessment, including a review of the project by an independent panel, followed by the comprehensive response to an information request from your office. With this in mind, and as an organization proud to support the Tri-Cities region, we support the port authority's proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project. We are confident that the port authority will effectively implement the conditions of any approval issued in respect of the project, which will serve to protect the environment and community while advancing the Canadian economy

Should you have any questions about our support for the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority or the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Leslie Courchesne
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Ron McKinnon, Member of Parliament for Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam
Bonita Zarillo, Member of Parliament for Port Moody-Coquitlam
The Honourable Perrin Beatty, PC, OC, President & Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Fiona Famulak, President & CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce