

Washington Public Ports Association

My name's Gerry O'Keefe, I am the senior director of Environmental Affairs for the Washington Public Ports Association. Our members are interested in, and supporting many of them, greenhouse gas emissions in the state broadly as well as for their local projects. I think I'm going to limit my comments this morning; it's really hard as a matter of the public to engage in a conversation about what a policy ought to look like without having some kind of shared framework in front of us to do that. You know, it's just, it's an extraordinary thing in my experience and the connection between staff at the Department of Ecology and the people of the state of Washington isn't strengthened as a result of a process like this one.

I think my other comment would be, I have a question about how with the legislature getting ready to adopt comprehensive carbon policy designed to get to net zero on a pretty aggressive schedule; how the Department of Ecology sees this policy meshing with that policy or avoiding a duplication of that policy? And whether or not that will be reflected? The need to make sure that this rule dovetails with whatever legislation might, for a comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction strategy might put into place either in this session, or in a future legislative session.

So, I hope I've made myself clear on that; one, it's hard to play if we can't share sort of a framework to talk about. And secondly, just how the rule might address the policy issues that will be or may be established by the legislature.