



**TO:** Interagency Clean Energy Siting Coordinating Council  
**FROM:** Carly Michiels, Washington Public Ports Association  
**RE:** 2025 Annual Legislative Report Draft Recommendation Ideas  
**DATE:** August 15, 2025

*Submitted Electronically through the web portal*

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The Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) is a coordinating agency that represents Washington's 75 port districts across the state. Ports play a critical role in Washington's economy, supporting the global and local trade economy, transportation, recreation, and industrial activity while prioritizing environmental stewardship. We carry out our mission through advocating, educating, and connecting to serve our port members.

WPPA places a priority on practices that can benefit the environment and be implemented in ways that minimize negative impacts on our state's global trade competitiveness, basic port competitiveness, and local economic and environmental development opportunities in our port communities. Washington's public ports are at the forefront of the state's clean energy transition – facilitating decarbonization projects, enabling green technology deployment, and supporting job growth across key industries. However, this transition cannot succeed without reliable, adequate, and affordable energy.

Ports are already making major investments in electrification, alternative fuels, and zero-carbon infrastructure. Yet across the state we face serious barriers in accessing energy – insufficient supply, lacking transmission capacity, and complex permitting processes all slow down clean energy adoption and impact new business development.

WPPA provides the following comments on the 2025 Interagency Clean Energy Siting Coordinating Council Draft Recommendations:

- We support SEPA and NEPA process improvements, including developing categorical exemptions. Anything that can be done to improve and more efficiently manage the permitting process will help move projects forward, provide additional energy security, and reduce delays and costs. We recommend consideration of project timelines where resources and funding availability are tied to certain permitting requirements. Increased permitting reliability will help with business development and recruitment, and project managers keep projects on time.
- We support recommendations that provide templates, guidance, or additional assistance to local governments, special purpose districts, or businesses recruiting industries vital to state trade and manufacturing.
- We support improving existing transmission lines with grid enhancing technologies and additional tools for transmission permitting but recommend considering longer-term solutions not just focusing on existing lines.



- We would like to see future recommendations and tools for how to address seasonal and climate driven energy volatility.
- We support the recommendation regarding emerging technologies and supporting local governments. However, many of the behind the meter strategies currently available are near term solutions to local energy challenges. WPPA looks forward to more resources and incentives for emerging technologies to be developed in Washington state.
- We support continued state partnership in decarbonization investments across the supply chain, including in new technologies that will improve efficiency and reduce carbon emissions in a competitive market environment.

WPPA will continue to advocate for policies that will improve the energy siting and permitting process, address rising project costs and delays, and expand transmission and generation capacity in the state. A dedicated focus on the state's energy supply challenges, transmission needs, and capacity planning needs to be addressed to meet the state's energy goals in a fiscally responsible and attainable way.