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The Port of Everett appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed 2027–29 Cleanup Grant Updates. We offer the following comments:

1. Ensure Fishing Areas are Adequately Prioritized

Many port-related cleanups occur in navigable waters, rivers, and nearshore marine environments that are subject to fishing. Ensure areas that are subject to sport and subsistence fishing are prioritized.

2. Oversight Remedial Action Grant Staff Cost Cap Impacts

The proposed cap limiting recipient staff time will disproportionately impact large, technically complex port cleanups. Ecology should keep in place the current grant rules for recipient staff time.

3. Eastern Washington Set-Aside Implications

Reserving at least 25% of ORAG funds for Eastern Washington projects assigns an arbitrary regional quota to funding decisions.

Prioritization of funding should remain focused on highest risk or highest benefit projects driven by environmental need and human exposure risk.

4. Readiness Criteria and In-Water Project Realities

Strict readiness criteria may disadvantage in-water and sediment projects with unavoidable permitting and sequencing constraints.

Ecology should retain existing readiness criteria and continue to recognize the challenges presented by timing of funding vs. timing of in-water permit issuances and timing of in-water permit expirations.