



WPPA 2009 Legislative Priorities

Recognizing current budget limitations, WPPA believes there are opportunities to stimulate the economy and improve the future economic outlook for the state by targeting investment to leverage private sector investment, address critical infrastructure needs and environmental clean-ups while creating good paying jobs that will move our state forward.

PRIORITY ONE FOR PORTS: Getting People back to Work.

- **CERB funding builds infrastructure and creates family wage jobs.** With a documented history of creating family wage jobs (especially in rural areas), CERB is the state's only economic development infrastructure program. Finding a permanent funding source for this critical tool is essential to the future economic success of our state.
- **Industrial cleanups create family wage jobs.** The state local toxics account must be protected so that it continues to create family wage jobs now and in the future. In the short term, the fund creates new jobs through the cleanup of toxic waste sites. It also stimulates long term job growth as local cleanups are completed. It is absolutely vital that budget writers resist the temptation to raid these funds for other purposes and continue to use this account for its designated purpose – to support family wage jobs by funding toxic cleanups in local communities.
- **Make job creation and local economies Climate Change priorities.** Addressing climate change continues to be a thematic, if broad-based, policy goal for the governor and legislators. Washington's ports are uniquely positioned to house emerging green industries – such as wind turbine manufacturing – that will create new, high wage, green collar jobs.
- **Support transportation jobs through freight mobility funding.** As one of the most trade dependent states in the nation, Washington relies on high wage logistics and transportation workers to keep the state moving and to maintain its competitiveness. Protecting and expanding these jobs through additional freight mobility funding is critical to maintaining the state's competitive edge.
- **Protect private sector investment and long term job creation.** Creating and retaining family wage jobs is a primary goal of ports around the state. Washington's public ports have a long record of success working through public-private partnerships to promote investment in the industrial and manufacturing sectors that provide family wage jobs. *However, some changes to existing prevailing wage laws could threaten or discourage private sector investment and could potentially force ports to sell property in order to create good jobs for local communities.* Such changes could divert investment and undermine job growth.

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