

## PROVIDING RURAL ACCESS TO BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICES

Public port authorities promote economic development through investment in infrastructure, through:



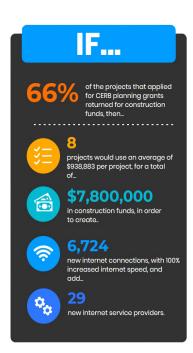






SB 5085 looks to increase broadband availability and economic development throughout the state by granting public entities the eligibility to apply for grant and loan funds through the State Broadband Office.

## **WASHINGTON PORTS SUPPORT** GOV. INSLEE'S BROADBAND BILL



• **PRIORITIZES LOCAL INVESTMENT**— Local goals related to economic development and quality of life—and the broadband speeds needed to achieve them—should be supported by local programs.

Washington Ports are asking to have a voice on the Public Works Board to assist local communities in addressing local infrastructure needs including planning, financing, and construction, repair, or expansion of their infrastructure.

- **UTILIZES A PUBLIC-PRIVATE APPROACH –** To facilitate delivery of meaningful high speed broadband by private telecommunications service providers, public entities-including Washington port authorities-interested in building open access networks should be eligible to apply for grant and loan dollars under the Statewide Broadband Office.
- **ENCOURAGES OPEN ACCESS AND COMPETITION** State investments should be directed to projects that will be open access, so private sector companies can compete on a level playing field, with business and residential customers benefitting from that competition. The private sector should drive retail options and delivery.

**INVEST IN SELF-SUSTAINING MODELS** – Public resources should support

## **WHO** BENEFITS?

- **TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS** gain access to new markets without building costly infrastructure.
- COMMUNITIES, including local businesses, gain access to high-speed broadband sooner. Because the fiber is open access, provider competition improves service and reduces cost.
- **TAXPAYERS** benefit from a financially-sustainable infrastructure maintenance and improvement model, and a more competitive marketplace.

## CURRENTLY, STATE LAW:

**PERMITS** ports to own dark fiber, and lease it to licensed telecommunications service providers

**DOES NOT PERMIT** ports to provide direct retail services, nor are ports looking for this