



WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORTS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF JAMES THOMPSON AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

James Thompson, WPPA Executive Director

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON (SEPTEMBER 25, 2019) – In a special meeting of Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) trustees on September 23, 2019, a vote was carried to appoint James Thompson as the next Executive Director for the statewide association.

After a five-month nationwide search process that saw applicants ranging from local to international, the Association's Executive Committee, in partnership with Karras Consulting, interviewed two rounds of finalists before submitting their unanimous recommendation of James Thompson to be the next Executive Director of the Washington Public Ports Association.

Of the Executive Committee recommendation, WPPA President Don Meyer stated, "James' passion for Washington's economic development, combined with his deep knowledge of port operations and reputation with legislators throughout the state made him the best possible selection for the next phase of growth with the Washington Public Ports Association."

As stated in WPPA bylaws, the recommendation requires approval through a vote of the trustees, comprised of one representative from each of the association's 70 member ports. In a Special Meeting of Trustees in Olympia, Washington on Monday, September 23, the recommendation was approved.

Thompson has served as Deputy Director for the Association for the past three years, and joined WPPA as Senior Director, Trade & Transportation in 2014. His experience includes leadership roles in commercial transportation, global logistics, trade tax and customs, through his work as Director of International Logistics and Trade for the Terex Corporation and North American Transportation Manager for Starbucks Coffee Company. Early in his career, he worked in state government and with a variety of state agencies.

James is a native of Cowlitz County and has lived in six port districts including Walla Walla, Port Angeles, Wahkiakum, Longview, Olympia, and Seattle. His career in the global logistics industry has taken him to ports throughout the world, giving him a wide array of experience to serve the interests of the public ports of Washington State.



WPPA is the voice of Washington Ports before the Legislature, Congress, other government agencies, and stakeholders. The association serves as the catalyst for promoting communication between ports and developing a broad public understanding of the important roles of ports across the state.

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ABOUT WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORTS ASSOCIATION

As a state legislative and regulatory advocacy organization, the Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) fosters public policy for ports to achieve their goals. The WPPA was formed by the legislature in 1961 to represent public port districts throughout Washington, serving as the focus through which ports work cooperatively to develop policy direction, share information, and address issues on economic development, trade, transportation, and environmental stewardship. Public port districts offer a wide range of locally governed services including marine terminals, barge facilities, industrial development, marinas, airports, railroads, and tourism promotion.

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