



WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORTS ASSOCIATION AWARDS REP. JOE FITZGIBBON, REP. BRUCE CHANDLER WITH ANNUAL COMPASS AWARDS

COMPASS AWARDS RECOGNIZE LEGISLATORS FOR THEIR VISION AND EFFORT ON ISSUES AFFECTING THE STATE'S PUBLIC PORTS

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON (MAY 20, 2019) – The [Washington Public Ports Association](#) has announced the recipients of their annual **Compass Awards**. For 2019, the Association has honored both Representative Joe Fitzgibbon (D - 34th District, West Seattle) and Representative Bruce Chandler (R -15th District, Yakima Valley).

In its second year, the Compass Award was designed to recognize both a Republican and Democrat legislator that have shown special support of port districts. The recipient receives an engraved compass – a symbol of heading in the right direction.

[Representative Joe Fitzgibbon](#) is the Chair of the House Environment & Energy Committee, and has been a stalwart advocate for ports in recent years on cleanup grants, and untangling how we account for greenhouse gases under SEPA. He is a strong environmental advocate while also balancing the importance of jobs and a strong economy.

In response to receiving the recognition, Rep. Fitzgibbon noted, "Our ports are an important component of Washington's trade-dependent economy, and we must continue to grow our commitment to connecting Washington to the world economy via our public ports. I look forward to our work in the years to come to ensure that toxic cleanup grants are a priority in the state capital budget so contaminated sites can be cleaned up and brought back into productive use for our state."

[Representative Bruce Chandler](#) is a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee. He has been a legislator for many years, and his business as a tree fruit farmer makes him a crucial advocate for trade and the success of ports. He was instrumental in the success of the Port of Sunnyside Ostrom's Mushroom project, which brought 200+ year-round jobs to the Yakima Valley.

Of the award, Representative Chandler said, "'I'm humbled and honored to receive this recognition," said Chandler. "The Grandview and Sunnyside port districts have been fundamental in building the infrastructure to assist in our continued local economic growth.

Ports all around the state, and especially in agriculture areas, play an integral role in helping to create jobs and getting products to market.”

The awards were presented at the Association’s Spring Meeting in Spokane, where over 200 port commissioners, executive directors, port staff and associate members from throughout the state meet on topics including economic development, trade and transportation infrastructure, environmental remediation projects and more.

The Compass Awards are presented to showcase the appreciation of the association members as well as their respective community support for legislators with long-term vision, making a positive difference in their home communities.

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ABOUT THE WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORTS ASSOCIATION

The Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) was formed in 1961 and represents 75 public port districts throughout the state of Washington, serving as the hub through which ports work cooperatively to share information and address issues on economic development, trade, transportation, and the environment. These 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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