



BRITISH COLUMBIA WHARF OPERATORS' ASSOCIATION

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October 10, 2012

The Select Standing Committee on Finance
And Government Services
Room 224 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Committee Members:

Re: Budget Consultations 2013

On behalf of the members of the BC Wharf Operators' Association, we would like to thank the Government for the opportunity to provide our recommendations for your consideration for inclusion in the 2013 Budget.

Our Association represents the major Marine and Grain Terminal Operators that provide the grain, bulk, break-bulk commodity and intermodal transfer interface between rail, truck, barge and large ocean vessels in the Lower Mainland of BC. The Association was established in 1963 and since that time we have been actively engaged with all stakeholders to ensure that Canada's Pacific gateway delivers sustainable, competitive terminal capacity to meet Canada's growing international trade in exports and imports.

The Government is to be congratulated for their prudent management of limited resources while focusing on our growing needs in the areas of education and health care. This is being achieved while continuing to ensure that our Province enjoys very competitive personal and business tax rates.

We were very pleased when the Government introduced the BC Port Property Tax Act in 2004 which provided certainty to Terminal Operators with respect to Municipal Taxation on investments in facilities and equipment. The Act was subsequently amended to extend the tax rate cap for current facilities and new investments to the years 2018 and 2019, respectively. In the 2012 Budget, the Minister of Finance stated that the "Sunset Provision" which would have the rate caps expire in 2018 and 2019 was being eliminated and therefore Marine Terminals would be in a position

