



A WASHINGTON PUBLIC PORT  
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## News Release February 17, 2012

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANACORTES – The Port of Anacortes Commission voted four to one last evening in favor of a resolution opposing fees that would hinder the competitiveness of Anacortes refineries.

In an on-going attempt to balance the State's budget, Governor Christine Gregoire recently proposed House Bill 2660/Senate Bill 6455 that would impose a petroleum product barrel fee with proceeds collected to be used for maintaining the state's highways and ferry system. In examining the Governor's proposal during their February 16<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, the Commission noted a barrel fee would put Washington refineries at a competitive disadvantage with out-of-state refineries and could negatively affect the local economy in the form of lost business and lost jobs. Members of the Commission observed that Washington State is increasingly seen as unfriendly to business and believed the proposed barrel fee and its impacts would reinforce that idea. The Commission noted the costs of fuel are priced into most everything consumers and businesses buy. Any fee of this nature will be passed on to the end users of products; and put further strain on our already weak economy. The Commission opposed the fee as inflationary and amounting to a new tax, while getting around the legislature's super majority rule on new taxes.

The Washington State Public Ports Association joins Washington ports in opposing the proposed bill and barrel fee.

A copy of the Commission's resolution, Resolution No. 1245, is attached.



#### About the Port of Anacortes

*The Port of Anacortes was formed in 1926 to promote economic development for Anacortes and the surrounding area. The Port district is led by a board of five elected commissioners: Pat D. Mooney, Bill Short, Ray Niver, Keith Rubin and Bob Eberle. Public meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room of the Main Port Warehouse, 1<sup>st</sup> & Commercial Avenue, Anacortes, WA. For more information, visit [www.portofanacortes.com](http://www.portofanacortes.com) or contact Julie Johnson Lindsey, Executive Assistant at [julie@portofanacortes.com](mailto:julie@portofanacortes.com)*