



## PORT OF KLICKITAT

For Immediate Release

December 9, 2013

# Port Adopts Limited Capital Budget

**Bingen, Washington** – At its meeting on November 26, 2013, the Port of Klickitat Commission adopted its 2014 operating and maintenance budget and a limited capital improvement budget in line with the failure of its levy lift ballot measure. The Port estimates its tax revenue in 2014 will be just over \$236,000.

“That isn't very much when you consider the Port's two most recent infrastructure projects at Bingen Point in 2010 and 2012 cost nearly \$900,000 each,” said Port Commissioner Jim Herman. “Those projects, funded by the Port's expired Industrial Development District levy, are the reason there are three new buildings at Bingen Point representing over 175,000 sq. ft. of industrial space, hundreds of jobs, and an estimated 12 million in private investment.”

The measure to increase the Port's levy to 45 cents per thousand of assessed property value through 2019 would have provided an additional \$380,000 (estimated) each year to help fund major capital improvements such as roads, utilities, and structures. At just over 17.1 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, the Port's current tax rate is the fifteenth lowest of the state's 74 port districts. It is also well behind the tax rates of the neighboring ports of Benton (41.6 cents), Camas-Washougal (44.8 cents), Grandview (42.8 cents), Kennewick (33.1 cents), Skamania (31.2 cents), Sunnyside (43.2 cents), and Vancouver (43.6 cents).

“We just have to scale back in comparison to our sister ports,” added Commissioner Wayne Vinyard. “Our constituents made it clear the tax burden required to sustain the current pace of capital investment is too great. As a result, the Commission has to make changes that will move the Port closer to tax independence. That means adjusting our capital budget, postponing improvements that don't pay for themselves, raising fees, and increasing future lease rates.”

According to Port Executive Director Marc Thornsby, the focus is likely to shift from new construction to maintenance while the Port saves up for its next substantial capital project.

“When revenues are limited, you commonly invest more in preserving the assets you already have rather than acquiring or constructing new ones,” said Thornsby. “I expect that 2014 will find us focusing on basic upkeep of aging facilities, particularly in the Dallesport Industrial Park where many of the original facilities are now nearly forty years old.”

### At A Glance...

**Who:**.....Port of Klickitat

**What:**.....2014 Capital Budget

**When:**.....November 26, 2013

**Where:**.....Bingen, Washington

**Quick Facts:**...Port Commission adopts limited 2014 capital budget in response to failure of its levy lift. Port levy rate lowest of seven neighboring ports. Asset preservation expected to be focus in 2014.

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### About the Port of Klickitat

Economic development, transportation, and marine-based recreation are key functions of the Port of Klickitat. These are achieved through leasing industrial-zoned property, developing and renting industrial and

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commercial facilities, developing and maintaining rail spurs and dock facilities, assisting companies with an interest in locating in Klickitat County, creating and managing marine-based recreational facilities, and working closely with various partner organizations and agencies.

The Port of Klickitat is located in Klickitat County, Washington and was created in 1944. It is one of several port authorities located in the mid-Columbia region. It owns two industrial parks and several buildings, leases industrial property and space, operates a barge dock, and holds property set aside for a park and marina. Transportation access is provided via rail, river barge, highways 14, 35, and 197, and Interstate 84. More information can be found on the Port's web site at [www.portofklickitat.com](http://www.portofklickitat.com).

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