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PORT OF KENNEWICK
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

NOVEMBER 4, 2026 MINUTES

Commission Meeting recordings, with agenda items linked to corresponding audio, can be found on the Port's website at: https://www.portofkennewick.org/commission-meetings-audio/

Commission Vice President Skip Novakovich called the Special Commission Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting and at the Tri-Cities Business & Visitor Center Board Room, 7130 W Grandridge Blvd, Kennewick, Washington.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ROLL CALL

The following were present:

Board Members: *District 1 Position Vacant*, President
Skip Novakovich, Vice President
Raul Contreras Gonzalez, Secretary

Staff Members: Tim Arntzen, Chief Executive Officer
Nick Kooiker, CFO/Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Olson, Director of Governmental Relations
Larry Peterson, Director of Planning & Economic Development
Amber Hanchette, Director of Real Estate
Bridgette Scott, Executive Assistant
Lisa Schumacher, Special Projects Coordinator
Carolyn Lake, Port Counsel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Arntzen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OUTLINE PROCESS

Commissioner Novakovich outlined the interview process and stated in addition to the questions each applicant answered as part of the application process, the finalists also received three questions in advance that we will ask tonight. We also asked the finalists to prepare remarks of up to 3 minutes that they will deliver during this meeting about the value they would bring to the Commission.

Before we begin, we will determine the order of interviews and statements by drawing a number for each finalist. The finalist numbers will be drawn based on the order we received the applications. Each finalist will be interviewed in the order of their assigned number. Commissioner Novakovich asked Ms. Scott to draw a number for each finalist.

Matt Boehnke #4
Robert (Rob) Welch #2
Marie Mosley #3
Don Britain #1

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DISTRICT 1 COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS
Commissioners Novakovich and Contreras Gonzalez asked the applicants the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in serving as a Port Commissioner?
2. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as a Port Commissioner?
3. If appointed, do you plan to run in the 2027 election for this position?

Each applicant provided a statement about the value they would bring to the Port of Kennewick Commission in the following order: Don Britain (Exhibit A), Rob Welch, Marie Mosley, and Matt Boehnke.

Commissioner Novakovich thanked the applicants for their thoughtful answers, and stated the Commission has a difficult decision ahead because each applicant is very qualified, which speaks highly of the Port of Kennewick.

Commissioner Contreras Gonzalez thanked staff for assisting the Commission with the process and thanked the applicants for applying and everything they have done for the community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Novakovich called for Public Comment, but first shared that the Port received letters of support and asked Ms. Scott to read the letters into the record:

Exhibit B: Shari Call, Washington Trucking Association
Exhibit C: Len Burton, Benton City Mayor
Exhibit D: John Smart
Exhibit E: Maria Laura Serra, Pasco Public Works Director
Exhibit F: Gunner Fulmer, Walla Walla County Commissioner
Exhibit G: David Sandretto
Exhibit H: Jerry Cummings

Additionally, Commissioner Novakovich and Commissioner Contreras Gonzalez received two emails of support after the meeting from Leo Perales (Exhibit I) and Noel Sanders (Exhibit J).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Wayne Langford, Burbank. Mr. Langford is a life-long Tri-Citian and came today in support of Matt Boehnke. In Mr. Langford's 20+ years of working with the Association of Realtors Government Affairs Committee, he has had the privilege of interviewing many elected officials. Mr. Langford stated Mr. Boehnke is someone who left an impression on him, as he is extremely knowledgeable and talented in the ways that he can take the most complex issues and explain it in a simple way for people to understand. Mr. Boehnke's work with the Good Roads Association, the City of Kennewick and his work in Olympia in both the House and Senate, is the kind of experience that you can't find very easily. With all due respect to the other fine applicants tonight, Mr. Langford believes Mr. Boehnke would the Port's best option.

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No further comments were made.

Commissioner Novakovich stated the Commission has a very difficult decision on November 10th, and stated all the discussion will take place during the Commission Meeting and not in Executive Session.

Commissioner Novakovich stated of the four applicants interviewed this evening, three have held publicly held positions, one is a former, long-term city manager, two have served as Mayor, and one is currently serving in the Washington State Legislature. Commissioner Novakovich believes the high quality of applicants we received is a testimony of the Port of Kennewick's outstanding record of serving our constituents, and to do so with 30 years of clean audits. Additionally, the applicants have had an opportunity to observe our staff and have a desire to leave a long lasting legacy, by working with staff as a team approach to provide an enhanced quality of life for those that live, work, and play in our region. Commissioner Novakovich thanked our staff and legal counsel for the work they have done to manage this process. Commissioner Novakovich disclosed that although each Commissioner has a binder containing all the information regarding each applicant, the staff has not reviewed any of the information, nor has knowledge of any of the applicants.

Ms. Lake stated the final step in the Commissioner appointment process is at the November 10th Regular Commission Meeting where Commissioners will deliberate and appoint their selection to fill the vacant District 1 position. The appointed Commissioner will then serve in that capacity until certification of the 2027 election.

During the November 2027 election, voters in District 1 will elect an individual to serve as their representative on the Port of Kennewick Board of Commissioners for a full six-year term. And the appointed applicant can decide if they want to run in that election.

With no further business to bring before the Board; the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

APPROVED:

PORT of KENNEWICK
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

District 1 Position, Vacant

President

DocuSigned by:
Skip Novakovich
0E53A30E1C8E442...

Skip Novakovich, Vice President

Signed by:
9AC05D4CD4C24DD...

Raul Contreras Gonzalez, Secretary

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EXHIBIT A

What Value I Would Bring to the Port of Kennewick

Public elected experience and knowledge of the Port. I served on the Kennewick City Council for 12 years, 4 as Mayor. In addition, I served 7 years on the Board of Directors for the Association of Washinton Cities, ultimately being elected President by my fellow Board members. I would bring a combination of public leadership experience, professionalism, respect, and a genuine commitment to the Port's success. Having recently retired I have the flexibility and availability to devote the time and attention necessary to serve effectively.

This experience has helped me understand the responsibilities of public service, the importance of fiscal responsibility, partnerships, my role as it relates to staff, and the need to make thoughtful decisions that serve the long-term interests of our community.

Over a decade I worked in partnership with the Port to assist in various projects, including the Wine and Artisan Village and the redevelopment of Vista Field. These experiences reinforced my belief in the value of cooperation and shared goals.

More experience that I would bring to the Port was my involvement while serving as Mayor, in the City of Kennewick's efforts to seek reconveyance of Columbia Park. During that process, with the assistance of our city manager and staff, I worked with Congressman Dan Newhouse and recognized the importance of ensuring that the Tribal governments were included and involved in the discussions.

Unfortunately, Covid arrived and sidelined those efforts.

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However, that experience reinforced the importance of building relationships, working effectively with federal representatives, respecting Tribal interests, and bringing the appropriate partners to the table when addressing complex community issues. I believe those skills are directly relevant to the Port's work.

Another significant experience I would bring to the Port was serving as Mayor when the Covid-19 Pandemic began. This was an unprecedented challenge that required quick decisions, constant communication and coordination with multiple levels of government. During that time, I participated and led multiple meetings weekly with other city leaders, County officials, Health District officials and the Governor's office. This time also included implementing a regional vaccination site in Kennewick. With the steady leadership of our city manager and staff, we continued to provide essential city services to our community.

I offer my experience to build on the Port's successes, pursue new opportunities, and help ensure that the decisions we make today benefit our community for generations to come. I would appreciate your consideration to appoint me to this position.

And thank you both for serving the community as Port Commissioners.

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EXHIBIT A

Why Are You Interested in Serving as a Port Commissioner?

I believe in the important role the Port plays in economic vitality, growth and the future of our community. During my time on the Kennewick City Council I developed a strong appreciation for economic development, job creation and responsible public leadership. I have great respect for the leadership and staff that are in place at the Port and would welcome working with them to continue contributing to our community through public service.

I want to be clear, I am not seeking this position to build my résumé or advance my political career. I have already served my community as a Councilmember and Mayor. I am seeking this opportunity because I believe in the Port's mission, its importance to our community, and want to contribute to its continued success.

I have no conflict of interests, no family members employed by the Port, and I have no known personal or financial interests that would interfere with my ability to serve independently and make decisions in the best interest of the Port and our community.

When I was elected to the Council in 2010, relations between the Port and City were not good. However, after 12 years on council, that relationship improved greatly. I served on the Vista Field Advisory Board during the development of its 2011 master plan and participated in numerous joint meetings between the City and the Port to help this cause.

I was also part of the partnership efforts between the City and the Port that culminated in receiving the Governor's Smart Partnership Award on two occasions.

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I was honored to receive the Port's Friend of the Port award in 2021. These experiences reinforced my belief in what can be accomplished when public agencies work together toward a common vision.

During my time as Mayor, I faced a significant personal challenge. In 2020, I was diagnosed with cancer and underwent 2 surgeries. Unfortunately, in 2021, the cancer returned and I had to complete 8 weeks of radiation and chemotherapy. Throughout that difficult period, I continued to fulfill my duties and responsibilities as Mayor, serving the citizens of Kennewick. Last month marked 5 years cancer-free, which I am extremely grateful for. That experience reinforced my faith, appreciation for life, perseverance and the importance of continuing to make a positive contribution to our community. I believe I have more to offer this community because of this experience.

My children and grandchildren all live here. I want to make this the best community ever and not give them, or others, a reason to leave.

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EXHIBIT A

What Do You Wish to Accomplish During This Appointed Term as a Port Commissioner?

During my appointed term, I would like to contribute to the continued economic growth and long-term success of the Port of Kennewick while building upon the vision, planning and investments that have already taken place.

A top priority would be to support the continued development of the Port's major projects, primarily Vista Field. This is a dynamic and exciting project, directly in the center of the Tri Cities. I would also support the continuing development of the Artisan Wine Village and surrounding Columbia Drive area.

These projects represent significant opportunities to attract private investment, create jobs, support local businesses and enhance the quality of life throughout our community. Forward visioning has always been a staple of the Port, going back to a proposed water archway entering the marina, and a riverboat to hold events on. I absolutely support the idea of adding a boat to showcase our beautiful waterfront to potential investors and visitors, and provide water fire rescue potential. This reinforces to me the forward thinking of the Port continues. I look forward to more visionary thinking.

The Port should continue attracting new businesses, creating quality employment opportunities, and making strategic investments that strengthen our local economy. At the same time, we must continue to be responsible stewards of public resources, be transparent, accountable, carefully evaluate the long-term benefits of our decisions AND our investments should produce meaningful benefits for the community.

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Fiscal responsibility would be an important part of my approach. I would work to ensure that Port resources are used wisely, projects are evaluated on their long-term economic benefits, and we continue pursuing grants and public-private partnerships whenever possible. I would also place a high value on maintaining and strengthening relationships between the Port, our cities, counties, Tribal partners, the private sector and other regional organizations.

My experience has taught me that some of our greatest accomplishments come from collaboration and a shared vision.

My goal would be to help ensure that the Port continues to be a responsible and effective economic development partner, creating opportunities, jobs and lasting

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If appointed, do you intend to run for election to this position in 2027?

Yes. If I am appointed to this position I fully intend to run for election in 2027. I view this appointment as an opportunity to begin contributing immediately, become more involved in the Port's current projects and priorities, and continue building upon the work already underway.

I would welcome the opportunity to earn the confidence of the voters and continue serving the Port district beyond the appointed term.

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Mark Miller
Chairman
Husky Terminal

Jeff Bosma
1st Vice Chair
Fast Way Freight System, Inc.

Everett Billingslea
2nd Vice Chair
Lynden, Inc.

John Barnes
3rd Vice Chair
TEC Equipment, Inc.

Steve Holtgeerts
Secretary/Treasurer
Hogland Transfer Co., Inc.

Matt Ewers
Immediate Past Chair
ATA State VP
IEDS Logistics

Sheri Call
President & CEO
Washington Trucking Associations

EXHIBIT B

WASHINGTON TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS
ESTABLISHED IN 1922

October 29, 2026

Port of Kennewick Board of Commissioners
350 Clover Island Drive, Suite 200
Kennewick, WA 99336

Re: Support for Matt Boehnke's Appointment as District 1 Commissioner

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Washington Trucking Associations (WTA), I am pleased to support Matt Boehnke's appointment to the Port of Kennewick Board of Commissioners.

Washington's trucking industry depends on strong regional economies, sound infrastructure investments, and public leaders who understand the needs of businesses and the communities they serve. We believe Senator Boehnke's experience in local and state government, commitment to public service, and understanding of the Tri-Cities would make him a valuable addition to the commission.

His service on the Kennewick City Council and in the Washington Legislature provides a strong foundation for the Port's responsibilities in economic development, public investment, and long-term planning. His military leadership and professional background in cybersecurity bring additional perspectives on organizational accountability, operational resilience, and emerging risks.

From WTA's perspective, successful economic development requires thoughtful coordination among transportation providers, employers, local governments, and workforce partners. Senator Boehnke's legislative work on transportation, workforce development, technology, and energy is relevant to these needs. We believe he would bring a practical approach to evaluating opportunities, weighing costs, and supporting investments that create lasting community value.

The Port of Kennewick plays an important role in creating opportunities for businesses, supporting family-wage jobs, and enhancing the quality of life throughout its district. We are confident Matt Boehnke would approach these responsibilities with dedication and a strong commitment to the public interest.

WTA respectfully encourages your favorable consideration of his appointment. Thank you for considering our recommendation.

Sincerely,

Sheri Call
President & CEO
Washington Trucking Associations

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EXHIBIT C

Bridgette Scott

Subject: Letter of Support: New Port of Kennewick Commissioner

From: Len Burton <lburton@ci.benton-city.wa.us>
Date: November 3, 2026 at 11:52:18 a.m. GMT-8
To: Skip Novakovich <skip@portofkennewick.org>
Subject: New Port of Kennewick Commissioner

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Commissioner Skip Novakovich,

I would like to express my strong support for Senator Boehnke's appointment as a Port of Kennewick Commissioner.

His extensive knowledge of state government, combined with his understanding of the needs and challenges facing local government jurisdictions, distinguishes him among the applicants. I believe Senator Boehnke would bring valuable experience, leadership, and perspective to the Port of Kennewick and would be an excellent choice to help lead the Port forward.

Mayor Len Burton
Benton City, WA
lburton@ci.benton-city.wa.us
Cell 509-554-4746
Work 509-588-3322

BENTON CITY
WASHINGTON

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EXHIBIT D

Bridgette Scott

Subject: FW: Matt Boehnke

From: John Smart <jsmart@westrichland.org>
Date: November 3, 2026 at 3:11:19 p.m. GMT-8
To: Raul Contreras Gonzalez <raul@portofkennewick.org>, Skip Novakovich <skip@portofkennewick.org>
Subject: Matt Boehnke

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Greetings Raul and Skip:
Just a quick note to express my support for Matt Boehnke in his bid to join the port.
I have known Matt for several years and have found him to be a person good character and impeccable integrity. Matt is also technically astute and exhibits excellent communication and leadership skills. I think he would serve the port and our community well in this position. Please consider joining me in support of Matt.
Best Regards,
John Smart
West Richland, WA

Sent from my iPad

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EXHIBIT E

From: Maria Laura Serra <serraml@gmail.com>
Date: November 4, 2026 at 10:11:59 a.m. GMT-8
To: Skip Novakovich <skip@portofkennewick.org>, Raul Contreras Gonzalez <raul@portofkennewick.org>
Subject: Commissioner for the Port of Kennewick - Support for candidate Sen. Boehnke

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Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for Matt Boehnke in his candidacy for the position of Commissioner for the Port of Kennewick.

My name is Maria Serra. I serve as the Public Works Director for the City of Pasco and Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla Counties Good Roads and Transportation Association. In recent years, I have had the pleasure of collaborating with Senator Boehnke and witnessing firsthand his advocacy for critical infrastructure needs in our region. Senator Boehnke understands the importance of transportation, infrastructure, and regional collaboration for addressing current needs and preparing our region for future growth and opportunities.

I respectfully ask for your consideration and support of his appointment in consideration of his background, experience, and longstanding connection to this region.

Regards,

Maria Serra

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EXHIBIT F

From: Gunner Fulmer <gfulmer@wwcowa.gov>
Date: November 4, 2026 at 12:59:08 p.m. GMT-8
To: Skip Novakovich <skip@portofkennewick.org>
Subject: Port Commissioner Dist. 1 appointment

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> **Notice: Our email domain is changing to wwcowa.gov Please update your address books and records accordingly.**

Commissioner Novakovich, this is Walla Walla County Commissioner Gunner Fulmer. I currently sit as chair for the Benton Franklin, Walla Walla County Good Roads Board, I also sit on the Washington Association of Counties Executive team as 1st Vice President. I have had many interactions with Senator Boehnke in Olympia as well as back in our region. He truly cares about our region and the people that live and work here. He has been a strong advocate in the transportation arena for the Walla Walla and Tri-Cities area. I would ask that you consider him for the Port Commission position. I believe that Senator Boehnke still has a lot of offer and of course has many great contacts and relationships throughout Washington State.

Respectfully,

Gunner Fulmer

Walla Walla County Commissioner

District 3

(Cell) 509-730-3295

(Desk) 509-524-2505

Our Mission: To Provide Walla Walla County with Leadership, financial stability, and the ability to listen to the concerns of our constituents and the courage to take action if needed. To represent all areas throughout Walla Walla County, bringing equitable solutions to constituents concerns.

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EXHIBIT G

From: David Sandretto <dsandretto@ci.benton-city.wa.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2026 3:39 PM
To: Raul Contreras Gonzalez <raul@portofkennewick.org>; Skip Novakovich <skip@portofkennewick.org>
Subject: Support Boehnke

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Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to express my strong support for Mr. Matt Boehnke, for the appointment you are considering this evening as I am unable to attend.

Mr. Boehnke has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to the Tri-Cities region and to the City of Kennewick through decades of public, military, and community service. As a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel, former Kennewick City Council member, educator, and community volunteer, he has consistently placed service above self and worked to improve the quality of life for the people of our region. His involvement with organizations such as Sunrise Rotary, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and numerous regional boards and committees reflects a genuine commitment to community engagement and civic responsibility.

I had the opportunity to serve alongside Matt on an association board, which allowed me to know him on a much deeper level than simply as an acquaintance. Throughout that experience, I found him to be thoughtful, respectful, and exceptionally well prepared. He approaches issues with a level head, carefully considers differing viewpoints, and consistently demonstrates sound judgment when making decisions. Even when faced with difficult or complex matters, Matt remains professional, measured, and focused on achieving outcomes that serve the broader community.

One of Matt's greatest strengths is his ability to listen, build consensus, and make informed decisions based on facts and thoughtful analysis rather than emotion or politics. His leadership style fosters trust and confidence among those who work with him. These qualities, combined with his extensive record of public service and community involvement, make him exceptionally well qualified for this appointment.

For these reasons, I respectfully and enthusiastically support Mr. Boehnke for this position. I am confident he will serve with integrity, fairness, and dedication, and will be a valuable asset in the role you are considering him for.

Sincerely,

David Sandretto

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EXHIBIT H

From: Jerry Cummins <wwballoon@gmail.com>
Date: November 4, 2026 at 4:26:43 p.m. GMT-8
To: Raul Contreras Gonzalez <raul@portofkennewick.org>, Skip Novakovich <skip@portofkennewick.org>
Subject: Matt Boehnke — Port of Kennewick's District 1 Commissioner

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To: Commissioner Raul Gonzalez
Commissioner Skip Novokovich

I have been involved in local transportation and economic development issues in Southeast Washington for over 30 years. I served as past president of the Benton-Franklin-Walla Walla Counties Good Roads & Transportation Association and have been an active member of this group of dedicated individuals for approximately 30 years. Additionally, I served on the Walla Walla City Council for 28 years (and served as Mayor for 4 terms). These experiences provided me with an opportunity to meet and work with a large group of dedicated people.

I am writing this unsolicited email to both of you to voice my support for Senator Boehnke to be selected as the next Port of Kennewick's District 1 Commissioner. Not only does Matt Boehnke bring a wealth of knowledge, he also has a mannerism and personal character which helps bring unity and agreement among individuals. I have always found Senator Boehnke to be truthful and sincere.

As our local chamber of commerce stated: **Those things we do best, we do together.**

In supporting Matt Boehnke for Port of Kennewick Commissioner, I am supporting what I envision would benefit the Port of Kennewick, Southeastern Washington and many singular groups with divergent issues. Overall, Southeast Washington will benefit if Matt Boehnke becomes a Port Commissioner.

If you have any questions about my unconditional support for Matt Boehnke, you certainly may contact me at your discretion.

Thank you.

Jerry Cummins
WWballoon@gmail.com
509-386-5214
2133 S. 2nd Ave.
Walla Walla, WA 99362-4509
It's Weird To Be The Same Age As Old People!

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EXHIBIT I

From: Leo Perales <PeralesCouncil@pasco-wa.gov>
Date: November 4, 2026 at 4:09:40 p.m. GMT-8
To: Raul Contreras Gonzalez <raul@portofkennewick.org>, Skip Novakovich <skip@portofkennewick.org>
Subject: Port of Kennewick Vacancy

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Good afternoon commissioners:

I wanted to take a moment to express my strong support for Matt Boehnke as you consider candidates for the Port of Kennewick Commissioner vacancy.

Matt has dedicated much of his life to serving our community in various capacities, from his 21 years of military service, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, to serving on the Kennewick City Council and later representing our region in Olympia as both a State Representative and State Senator. His breadth of knowledge and experience in local government, economic development, public policy, infrastructure, and state government would be an incredible asset to the Port of Kennewick as it continues working toward its future goals.

But beyond his impressive résumé, I wanted to share something more personal. Matt is someone I have genuinely looked up to since I was first getting involved in local politics and public service. In fact, he was part of the committee that considered me for my very first commission appointment when I was living in Kennewick. As someone who was just starting to find his way in public service, I appreciated his guidance, encouragement, and the example he set. His individual drive, dedication, and willingness to serve others were qualities I admired then and continue to admire today. In many ways, he was someone I aspired to be like as I began my own journey in serving our community.

I've always believed that public service should be about something greater than ourselves, and Matt is someone who truly embodies that philosophy. He has a servant's heart, and his willingness to dedicate so many years of his life to improving our region speaks volumes about his character.

I don't typically endorse individuals for public office or appointments, especially outside my own jurisdiction. However, when I learned that Matt was being considered for this position, I felt compelled to reach out and share my perspective. I believe his experience at the municipal and state levels, combined

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with the relationships he has built throughout our region and in Olympia, would be invaluable to the Port of Kennewick.

Although I was born in Pasco, I spent a significant portion of my upbringing in Kennewick, and that community will always hold a special place in my heart. I care deeply about its future and want to see individuals who understand our region, its challenges, and its opportunities helping guide its continued growth and prosperity.

Ultimately, I recognize and respect that this decision rests with the Port Commissioners. Regardless of whom you select, I simply wanted to share my personal experience with Matt and the tremendous amount of respect I have for him. He helped guide me when I was first finding my footing in public service, and that is something I have never forgotten.

I sincerely hope you give Matt your strongest consideration. I believe he has the experience, institutional knowledge, relationships, and, most importantly, the heart to continue serving our community in this capacity.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your continued service to the Port of Kennewick and our greater Tri-Cities community.

LP

Leo A. Perales-District 3

509.905.2673

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EXHIBIT J

From: Noel Sanders <noelsanders@gmail.com>
Date: November 4, 2026 at 6:36:48 p.m. GMT-8
To: Skip Novakovich <skip@portofkennewick.org>, Raul Contreras Gonzalez <raul@portofkennewick.org>
Subject: Support for Senator Boehnke – Port of Kennewick District 1 Commission

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.
Dear Commissioner Novokovich and Commissioner Gonzalez,

Thank you so much for your service and dedication as Port Commissioners. Also, thank you for allowing the public to listen and provide comments during tonight's Special Commission Meeting. Although I was unable to get my microphone working, I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to participate.

I agree with the comments made tonight that you have four outstanding candidates to consider. However, I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for Senator Boehnke as a candidate for the Port of Kennewick District 1 Commission position.

Having worked with and observed Senator Boehnke's involvement in our region, I believe he understands the importance of economic development, infrastructure, and regional collaboration. These are all critical to the continued growth and success of our communities.

His experience serving on the Kennewick City Council, as a State Representative, and now as a State Senator provides him with valuable insight into the challenges and opportunities facing our region. He also understands the importance of working across political lines, building relationships, and finding common ground to move issues forward.

The Port of Kennewick plays an important role in our region's economic vitality, job creation, infrastructure, and future development. Having someone who understands these connections and has longstanding ties to our communities would bring a valuable regional perspective to the Commission.

I believe Senator Boehnke's background, experience, and commitment to our region make him a strong candidate for this position. I respectfully ask that you give his appointment your full consideration.

Thank you again for your time, your service, and your consideration.

Best regards,
Noël Sanders