

PRESS RELEASE

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PORT OF OLYMPIA COMMISSION STATEMENT CONCERNING RECENT PROTESTS

Recently our community experienced disruption and turmoil due to the actions of a few people who chose to break the law when protesting movement of military cargo through the Port of Olympia.

The Port Commission recognizes the strong feelings of many people in our community who disagree with the Government's foreign policy. We respect their right to peacefully protest, and we know that there were many peaceful protestors involved. Unfortunately, the behavior of the few who blocked roads with unlawful and destructive means jeopardized their own safety and the safety of others. This cannot be ignored.

We expect our justice system to hold them accountable for their actions.

In addition, we feel it is our obligation to the taxpayers of Thurston County to recoup the extraordinary costs resulting from these unlawful acts. The Port Commission will consider pursuing any available civil remedies for damages.

We believe we have the support of the overwhelming majority of county citizens in reaffirming our intention to continue to make Port of Olympia facilities available to whoever wants to use them.

The Port of Olympia Commission would like to thank the Olympia Police Department and emergency responders for providing exemplary service while exercising restraint in the face of provocation.

We also thank the Military personnel, the Longshore men and women, and Port staff for their diligence and patience under frustrating circumstances.

We apologize to the truckers, citizens, and business people who were negatively impacted by demonstrators who failed to exercise their free speech rights peaceably and lawfully.

Adopted November 26, 2007

Paul Telford, Port of Olympia Commission President

Bob Van Schoorl, Port Commissioner

Bill McGregor, Port Commissioner