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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SSA Marine issues statement on Lummi relationship**

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**Seattle, WA –**

*SSA Marine Senior Vice President Bob Watters issued the following statement today:*

“SSA Marine takes its relationship with Lummi very seriously. Over the last year we have worked with Lummi representatives to understand their concerns and needs and make sure the project both respects and meets those concerns and needs. These are serious issues that should be approached in a serious way.

“It is also important to keep in mind that the Gateway Pacific Terminal will meet all of Washington’s stringent environmental standards and will be an excellent source of family-wage jobs for all of Whatcom County, including Lummi members.

“We understand how important their cultural values are to Lummi. The Lummi have communicated to us the particular importance of Xwe’ chi’ eXen and of having their ancestors rest in peace. We respect those values and will work with Lummi to realize them.

“In order to accomplish this we will take special precautions to protect cultural resources on the GPT property, including restricting public access, while ensuring long-term access for Lummi members to cultural resources for ceremonial purposes. We will work with the Lummi Sche’langen Department and Tribal Historical Preservation Office to implement appropriate design and construction protocols and agreements that would be guided by the Traditional Cultural Properties assessment, and to implement our Inadvertent Discovery Plan during Terminal construction and operations. In addition, we are prepared to help the Lummi Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office continue its work to repatriate ancestral remains and catalogue and preserve artifacts that were removed from the site by archeologists in decades past.

“The Lummi Team and Lummi fishers have also made it very clear to us how central fishing is to the Tribe, both economically and culturally. We are committed to addressing Lummi concerns in detail. Our approach will be first to avoid impacts, then to minimize unavoidable

impacts, and finally, to mitigate and positively address what remaining impacts there may be in a mutually satisfactory way. In fact, we are now conducting a study, designed with input from the Lummi Team, of the effects of added vessel traffic calling at GPT. As recently as this week, the project's technical team doing the study met with the Lummi Team and Lummi fishers to fully understand concerns over potential impacts.

"I want to underscore that as the Gateway project moves forward in the permitting process, SSA Marine and the Gateway project will work with Lummi to address all issues and concerns."