

PORT OF COLUMBIA

**1 Port Way
Dayton, WA 99328**

RESOLUTION No. 2025-03

A resolution of the Port of Columbia, Columbia County, Washington, authorizing the submission of an application for a Community Economic Revitalization Board grant in the approximate amount of \$2,000,000 for extension of broadband into the Town of Starbuck and to the E911 communications towers on Crall Hollow, and authorizing the executive director to enter into an agreement for such funding.

WHEREAS, the Port of Columbia's mission is to maximize public resources and private investment to create jobs, provide infrastructure, and maintain and improve the economic vitality of Columbia County and its communities; and

WHEREAS, RCW 53.08.370 grants Ports that were in existence on June 8, 2000 the authority to construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, handle, provide, add to, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate and maintain any telecommunications facilities within or without the district's limits for the district's own use or for the provision of wholesale telecommunications service; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Columbia completed a Broadband Feasibility Study in February of 2020 that shows that a Port-owned, open access fiber network in the City of Dayton and adjacent areas in unincorporated Columbia County is feasible; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Columbia has successfully completed construction of a dark fiber network in the City of Dayton and adjacent outlying areas, and west of Dayton along Highway 12, and is operating and maintaining the network while leasing the dark fiber to private ISPs who provide service to customers; and

WHEREAS, Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) funds are available to support community economic development projects which are ready to increase broadband access and connectivity; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Columbia desires to fund a project consistent with the purposes of the CERB; and

WHEREAS, the CERB Project represents a commitment to build infrastructure to provide high-speed open access broadband service to rural unserved/underserved communities of the Port of Columbia together with a committed internet service provider; and

WHEREAS, in the event the application for CERB funding is approved, and accepted by the Port of Columbia, the Port of Columbia will comply with all applicable federal and state requirements in regard to environmental impact of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Port of Columbia finds and determines that an application should be submitted to appropriate agencies for consideration of funding the CERB Project for and on behalf of the Port of Columbia, and that such submission will promote community economic development within the Port District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Port of Columbia Board of Commissioners in Columbia County, Washington as follows:

1. That the executive director, or her designee, is hereby authorized to submit an application to the Community Economic Revitalization Board, for and on behalf of the Port of Columbia, for CERB funding in the approximate amount of \$2,000,000 for the CERB Project; and
2. That the executive director is hereby further authorized to provide such additional information as may be necessary to secure approval of such application; and
3. That, in the event such application is approved, the executive director is authorized to enter into an agreement for such funding; and
4. That this Resolution shall be effective upon passage and signatures heron in accordance with the law.

Adopted this 14th day of May, 2025.

PORT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____

Seth Bryan, Chairman

By: _____

Mike Spring, Secretary

By: _____

Johnny Watts