PORT OF CENTRALIA
Established 1986

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STATEMENT BY
PORT OF CENTRALIA COMMISSION PRESIDENT KYLE MARKSTROM
REGARDING THE INVESTIGATION INTO
PORT OF CENTRALIA COMMISSIONER ETHICS VIOLATIONS

As President of the Port of Centralia Commission, I feel it is crucial to address the recent investigation into Commissioner Peter Lahmann. I want to assure the community and stakeholders that we take any allegations of ethical violations seriously and have conducted a thorough investigation to ensure the public's trust in our operations.

The Port Commission engaged the services of a third-party attorney to conduct an impartial and comprehensive investigation into the allegations against Commissioner Peter Lahmann. The investigation was conducted diligently, examining all available evidence and testimonies from relevant parties involved.

Today, we are releasing the attorney's report, which concludes that no legal wrongdoing by Commissioner Lahmann could be substantiated. However, it is important to acknowledge that the report did identify instances where lines were blurred, potentially creating an appearance of impropriety.

We must remember that allegations of ethical violations are serious matters that require careful scrutiny and unbiased evaluation. While the report did not find any legal wrongdoing, it is incumbent upon us as public servants to ensure that our actions are beyond reproach and uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct.

Moving forward, we will take the findings of the investigation seriously and work towards strengthening our ethical framework. The Port Commission remains committed to promoting transparency, fostering trust within the community, and upholding the values that underpin our operations.

It is vital that we use this experience as an opportunity to learn and grow as an organization. We will be reviewing our existing policies and procedures to reinforce the boundaries that guide our decision making and prevent any potential conflicts of interest from arising in the future. Additionally, we encourage Commissioner Lahmann, to participate in ethics training to ensure a clear understanding of our responsibilities and obligations.

I want to express my gratitude to the independent attorney who conducted the investigation and provided valuable insights. Their work has been instrumental in shedding light on this matter, and we appreciate their professionalism and impartiality.

Lastly, I would like to assure the community that the Port of Centralia remains committed to serving the best interests of our constituents, fostering economic growth, and maintaining the highest ethical standards.

To view the original memo and ethics investigation report, please visit www.portofcentralia.com.