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Cargo containers are shown being loaded on ships at the Port of Portland. A bill allowing governors of seaport states and territories to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act to order dock workers to work has been introduced in the U.S. House.

PORTS Act filed in House

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

A bill allowing governors of seaport states and territories to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act to order dock workers to work has been introduced in the U.S. House by legislators from Washington, Colorado and American Samoa.

H.R. 3398, introduced Aug. 5, is a companion measure to S. 1519 introduced June 5 by Sens. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., and Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn. The Senate bill has been referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

The House bill is sponsored by Reps. Dan Newhouse and Dave Reichert, both of Washington; Mike Coffman, of Colorado; and Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, of American Samoa. All four are Republicans.

The House and Senate bills are known as the Protecting Orderly and Responsible Transit of Shipment (PORTS) Act. They are in reaction to a May 2014 through February 2015 work slow down at 29 West Coast ports during contract negotiations between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association.

Losses to the U.S. economy from the slow down cost up to \$2.5 billion per day and contributed an anemic 0.2 percent annual growth rate in the first quarter of 2015, Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., has said.

On May 12, Thune introduced S. 1298 to collect metrics of port marine terminal productivity for an early warning system to know when terminals are no longer operating normally.

Exports of imports of many commodities through the West Coast were impacted, including agricultural exports of apples, pears, hay, chilled beef and pork, frozen and dehydrated potato products, frozen vegetables, forest products, Christmas trees,

citrus fruit, nuts and rice.

The slow down ended when an agreement for a new contract was reached in February. It took a couple more months for ports to rebuild normal flows.

"While the parties ultimately came to an agreement, the process took far too long and the damage to our economy was far too great," the sponsors of the House bill said.

Under Taft-Hartley, the president may appoint a board of inquiry to study disputes of threatened or actual strikes or lockouts affecting trade among states and foreign nations that if permitted to occur would imperil national health or safety. Upon a report by the board, the president may direct the attorney general to petition a court of jurisdiction to end a strike or lockout.

The PORTS Act expands that to include slow downs and gives the governors of impacted states or territories authority to appoint boards of inquiry and petition courts for injunctions if the president does not act within 10 days of receiving a request.

The House bill directs the U.S. comptroller general to study the economic impact of the recent slow down, review attempts at federal mediation, identify steps that could have been taken sooner and determine what legislative changes would result in more timely intervention.

Chris Schlect, president of the Northwest Horticultural Council in Yakima, Wash., said he's pleased the bills have been introduced but doubts they will work because of labor union dominance in California, Oregon and Washington.

"It's just not right that some 20,000 labor people can essentially hold up a huge amount of the American economy over their individual work issues," Schlect said. "We all recognize they need to be paid fairly but their economic clout is way out of line from economic reality."

Seaside's community center sketches out a fresh new look

Commission, consultants present plan to City Council

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — After years of inaction, renovation of the Bob Chisholm Community Center is taking shape. Consultants from RESOLVE Architecture + Planning firm are working with the Seaside Community Center Commission to give the center's main hall a new look, at a budget of about \$176,000.

The community center at 1225 Avenue A is owned by the city and managed by the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District.

Seaside City Manager Mark Winstanley said the project had been a topic of conversation for years, without progress until now. "This is the first time anyone has come to us with anything other than just saying, 'We need to get this remodeled,'" he said.

Architect John Flynn and designer Suenn Ho presented project plans to Seaside City Council at its Aug. 10 meeting. The city financed the contract with RESOLVE at a cost of \$5,820. The scope of the renovation features demolition, electrical work and installation of new framing, insulation, drywall, doors and trims. Cosmetic work includes new flooring and wall coverings, painting, furnishing and landscaping.

The estimated cost for the project is \$163,788, about \$69.70 per square foot. Consultants recommend having a contingency fund of about 7 percent, or \$12,212, for an overall budget of \$176,000.

The center, which consists of two meeting rooms, a large hall and commercial kitchen, is rented out by the recreation district to community groups and organizations for private parties and special events.

Plans from RESOLVE give the Community Center Commission a road map



Katherine Lacaze/EO Media Group

A group with the Astoria Arts and Movement Center performs a Zumba dance during the Hispanic Heritage Festival at the Bob Chisholm Community Center in 2014. The City Council agreed to interior and landscape upgrades at the center.



Katherine Lacaze/EO Media Group

The Bob Chisholm Community Center, owned by the city of Seaside and managed by the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District, is used by numerous community and private groups to host special events, senior activities, parties, weddings and reunions.



Katherine Lacaze/EO Media Group

The Bob Chisholm Community Center will see interior upgrades and repairs.

to proceed with the project, starting with financing.

Like projects at many other community and senior centers, Winstanley said, the renovation is up against a significant lack of funds. The city may choose to pay for part of the project, supplemented by fundraising and grant applications.

"Those are all things we can certainly take a look at," Winstanley said. "It's difficult to ignite something on the money side until you have some type of plan."

He said he believes it can be done. A comparable fundraising effort, he said, was made to get a new facility for the Seaside Public Library. Through a nearly decade-long

collaboration of public agencies and private donors, the institution was able to move to its current location in 2008.

In a letter to the city, building manager Darren Gooch recommended council develop a fundraising committee comprised of council members, commission members and invested community members.

"I would be very interested in being part of that committee myself, and I know that the commission has some great ideas around raising money to offset the cost of this project," he wrote.

Gooch recommended the city retain RESOLVE to assist in the next phase of the project. Flynn and Ho, he added,

have demonstrated "a level of knowledge and creativity that we feel would be very valuable to the success of the project." The city is interested in renewing the contract but nothing has been solidified, Winstanley said.

After the presentation, the City Council informally approved RESOLVE's proposed project design and gave the Community Center Commission permission to move forward.

Refurbishing the main hall is the first of three phases in the overall community center renovation, commissioners said. The following two phases will be renovations to the center's entryway and the classrooms.

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