

Joint Statement

Issued by: Captain Katharine Sweeney and the Washington Board of Pilotage Commissioners

August 22, 2016

Captain Katharine Sweeney and the Washington State Board of Pilotage Commissioners announce that they have agreed to resolve Captain Sweeney's lawsuit against the Board by settlement and without further litigation between the parties.

In October 2011, Captain Sweeney filed suit against the Board of Pilotage Commissioners alleging that the Board's refusal to issue her a license to pilot large vessels in Puget Sound constituted discrimination on the basis of her gender in violation of the Washington Law Against Discrimination.

The Board denied that its decision to refuse Captain Sweeney a pilot's license was based upon her gender, alleging instead that its decision was based on the Board's evaluation of her ability to perform in the pilot training program.

In September 2014, after a lengthy trial, a King County jury found that the Board had discriminated against Captain Sweeney on the basis of her gender and awarded her damages.

The Board appealed the jury's decision, alleging that it had not received a fair trial, and requesting that it be awarded the opportunity for a new trial. Oral argument on the Board's appeal is scheduled for September 2016.

The parties have determined that resolving this matter by settlement rather than through further litigation is in the best interests of Captain Sweeney, the Board, and the people of Washington State.