

May 20, 2026

After a great deal of thought and prayer, my family and I have made the decision to leave the Centralia area to pursue a new opportunity. As a result, I will be resigning from my position as a Port of Centralia Commissioner, effective June 12.

This decision is about our family, our future, and a new professional opportunity that we are excited to pursue. We are choosing a path that better fits the values, lifestyle, and direction we want for our family, and we are doing so with confidence, gratitude, and peace about what comes next.

This is not a decision we have taken lightly. Centralia has been an important part of our family's life, and serving this community as a Port Commissioner has been a tremendous honor.

I want to sincerely thank the constituents who voted for me, supported me, and trusted me to represent them. I never took that trust lightly. From the beginning, I took the work of being a Port Commissioner very seriously because I believe the Port's mission matters. Creating jobs, encouraging investment, supporting business growth, and expanding opportunity are not abstract ideas. They directly affect families, workers, taxpayers, and the future strength of our community.

I am proud of what we accomplished during my time on the Commission. I am also proud of the Port of Centralia's long-standing role as the number one economic driver in Centralia—and really in Lewis County as a whole—for decades. That legacy includes the progress made on Centralia Station and the long-term work that helped move that project forward, from land acquisition and infrastructure planning to road and utility improvements and development partnerships.

I am especially proud of the current progress in Fords Prairie, the work underway with LPC, and the continued momentum behind Centralia Station. Together, these efforts represent exactly the kind of long-term economic development the Port was created to support: hundreds of millions of dollars in private investment, a stronger local tax base, major infrastructure improvements, new opportunities for retail growth, and, most importantly, jobs that can support Centralia families for generations to come.

While not everyone has shared the same vision for growth, I have always believed Centralia's future depends on welcoming opportunity, encouraging private investment, and having the courage to support projects that create jobs, expand the tax base, and strengthen the community for future generations.

I am thankful for the Port staff, my fellow commissioners, community partners, business leaders, and citizens who care about Centralia and want to see it thrive. Public service comes with

challenges, but it also comes with moments of real purpose, and I am grateful for the opportunity I had to serve.

As my family begins this next chapter, we leave with gratitude. Centralia will always be part of our story, and I will always be thankful for the people who trusted me with the responsibility of serving as their Port Commissioner.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kyle Markstrom