

United States Senate

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October 27, 2011

Mr. Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am honored to express my support for the Northern Express Transportation Authority as they apply for \$9,998,910 in TIGER III grant funding, for the Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center.

Montana is the fourth largest State in the nation yet we currently do not have the ability to ship or receive oversize or containerized cargos for import and export due to the lack of a multimodal facility capable of accepting and delivering unit trains of containers. Our farmers, ranchers, businesses and manufacturers lack the ability to containerize their cargos for export delivery to world markets.

If funded, Northern Express Transportation Authority would construct Montana's first multimodal facility to facilitate the export of agricultural commodities and manufactured products--a noteworthy commercial accomplishment for the State of Montana. This project plans to construct 10,860 lineal feet of rail to support Burlington Northern Santa Fe's Class 1 intermodal trains, 4,849 lineal feet of access roads to the facility and a 20-acre laydown yard to stage oversize equipment. The facility, as proposed, would serve to address this statewide shortfall in export potential.

Again, this project carries with it my full support and I hope you will consider their application favorably. Please feel free to contact my office if I provide any additional information about my support of the Northern Express Transition Authority or its proposed project. I would also greatly appreciate if you kept my office informed about the status of this request.

Sincerely,

