



P.O. Box 1272  
Cut Bank, MT 59427

October 17, 2011

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

RE: TIGER III

Dear Mr. Secretary,

This letter conveys my support for the Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center.

Constructing a multimodal rail facility in Shelby, Montana would support CHS's vision to be a globally integrated energy, grains and foods system innovatively linking producers with consumers.

CHS supplies energy, crop nutrients, livestock feed, grain, food and food ingredients. The company operates petroleum refineries/pipelines and manufactures, markets and distributes Cenex® brand refined fuels, lubricants, propane and renewable energy products.

Montana is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest State in the nation yet it does not have the ability to ship or receive containerized cargos for import or export due to the lack of a multimodal facility capable of accepting and delivering unit trains of containers.

This project will construct Montana's first multimodal facility to facilitate the export of value added food commodities and manufactured products--a nationally and regionally significant commercial accomplishment.

As funding applications are evaluated, I would hope that you would carefully consider the merits of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross Thayer".

Ross Thayer

Gen. Mgr.