

October 20, 2011

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

RE: Northern Express Transportation Authority/TIGER III Grant Application

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As Vice President and Administration Manager for the Shelby-based trucking Firm, Dick Irvin, Inc. (DII), I am writing to express our whole-hearted support for the Northern Express Transportation Authority's efforts to bring valuable transportation infrastructure to the north central Montana region.

As a provider and user of transportation services for the western United States and western Canada, I know that obvious savings result from utilizing economic distribution centers that combine and reduce shipping expenses. The Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center will result in hundreds of thousands in savings to the region's shippers and receivers.

Montana is the 4th 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.

Dick Irvin, Inc. anticipates transporting 35-40 additional power units to efficiently gather and distribute freight, in short haul relays, to the multimodal facility. This gathering practice is a proven technique for creating a dense load center that generates full train loads and contributes to freight rail and trucking efficiency. We believe this development is vital to the economic health of north central Montana.

As funding applications are evaluated, please consider our pledged support.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Cole

Dick Irvin, Inc.