

September 23, 2011

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US Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Room W38-311
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: : FRA Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Program

I am writing a letter to support Shelby's interest in advancing the Shelby Intermodal Hub Relocation Project.

We recognize the safety and economic benefits of this project, and we are currently in the process of evaluating applications and qualifying projects for the 2011 Montana Essential Freight Rail Loan (MEFRL) program. This is a small revolving loan program that has limited funds which are insufficient for completion of the Shelby Intermodal Hub Relocation Project.

First, the MEFRL program has limited discretion for use of funds for public/private competitive rail operations. Second, the program has limited funds available for project allocation and the loanable balance is substantially less than the necessary amount of 2.6 million required to complete the documented scope. The Montana Department of Transportation has no other funds available to assist the Shelby Intermodal Hub Relocation Project.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me at (406)444-7289.



Dr. Douglas McBroom
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