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October 26, 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,

This letter conveys my support for the construction of the Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center project, which would construct Montana's first multimodal freight rail facility to allow the domestic movement of oversize equipment and energy supplies.

Montana is the 4th largest State in the nation yet it does not have the ability to ship or receive containerized cargo due to the lack of a multimodal facility capable of handling unit trains of containers.

Montana has outstanding potential for energy development. The area around Shelby has been an oil and gas producing area for many years. Modern advances in drilling technology have dramatically increased development potential. Construction of a multimodal facility would provide critical transportation infrastructure and improve energy supply delivery to the State.

As funding applications are evaluated, please consider our support for this project.

Sincerely,



David A. Galt
Montana Petroleum Association