



COOPERATION • EDUCATION • LEGISLATION

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 Montana Farmers Union's support for the Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center project.

Montana is the 4th largest State in the nation yet we do not have the ability to ship or receive containerized cargos for import and 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 noteworthy commercial accomplishment for the region and State of Montana. It will also serve as a model to empower rural communities across the nation to increase their export opportunities.

The project has received all required environmental clearances, has a 42 percent non-federal match of \$7,346,558 and is in line with the Montana Farmers Union's mission to support family farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

As funding applications are evaluated, I would hope that you would carefully consider the benefits of this project to the State of Montana and rural communities nationwide.

Sincerely,

Alan Merrill
President