

MontanaGrow

October 24, 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 MontanaGrow's strong support for the Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center.

MontanaGrow has created a Natural Fertilizer Si which yields excellent results and is a unique source of silicon that contributes to strong roots, healthy plants, robust growth and higher yields.

We currently use railcars and trucks to transport our product to market. For rail, we use 100 ton covered hoppers or 2,000 pound sacks in box cars. The trucks we use are 23 ton belly-dump or 12 ton end-dump trucks.

Constructing a multimodal rail facility in Shelby, Montana would provide MontanaGrow with an opportunity to fill and transport up to 10,400 20 foot containers to the Port of Tacoma, WA or other west coast ports annually for export to China. Adding international export to our customer base could increase our staff by 22 FTE. Montana is the 4th largest State in the nation yet it is landlocked and 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 allow the export of Montana commodities--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,



John Porterfield
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