

JON TESTER  
MONTANA

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## United States Senate

SENATE HART BUILDING  
SUITE 724  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
202-224-2644

MONTANA TOLL FREE NUMBER  
1-866-554-4403

INTERNET:  
<http://tester.senate.gov/contact>

October 26, 2011

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

**RE: Tiger III Discretionary Grant: Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center, Shelby Montana**

Dear Mr. Secretary,

It is with pleasure that I write in support of the Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center, for which the Northern Express Transportation Authority has requested \$9,998,910 in TIGER III grant funding. Federal funds will be combined with a \$7,346,558 non-federal match that has been committed to the project and dedicated to completing it.

This project would construct Montana's first multimodal facility to make possible the export of agricultural commodities and manufactured products--a noteworthy commercial accomplishment. Federal funds would be used to construct 10,860 feet of rail to support Burlington Northern Santa Fe's Class 1 intermodal trains, 4,849 lineal feet of access roads to the facility and a 20-acre laydown yard to stage oversize equipment.

Montana is the fourth largest state in the nation. However, Montana lacks the ability to ship or receive oversize or containerized cargos for import and export. This is due to the lack of a multimodal facility capable of accepting and delivering unit trains of containers, and the problem impacts the job-creating potential of our farmers, ranchers, businesses and manufacturers. The facility as proposed would serve to address this statewide shortfall in export potential.

The project is 100 percent ready to go. It has received all required environmental clearances including Categorical Exclusions from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Railroad Administration.

Thank you for your attention to this grant application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any information to assist you in your decision.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
United States Senator

BOZEMAN  
(406) 586-4450

BUTTE  
(406) 723-3277

GLENDIVE  
(406) 365-2391

GREAT FALLS  
(406) 452-9585

HELENA  
(406) 449-5401

KALISPELL  
(406) 257-3360

BILLINGS  
(406) 252-0550

MISSOULA  
(406) 728-3003