

TOOLE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

October 19, 2011

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

RE: Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center/TIGER III Application

Dear Mr. Secretary,

This letter conveys the office of Toole County Economic Development's support for the Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center.

Montana has more potential for energy development from current and prospective new diversified sources than any state in the nation. In Montana and in Toole County, energy development creates new jobs. This project would create new opportunities for family wage jobs and accelerate the construction of Montana's traditional and renewable energy projects.

Montana is the fourth largest state in the nation yet we currently do not have the ability to ship or receive containerized cargo due to the lack of a multimodal facility capable of accepting and delivering unit trains of containers.

This project would construct Montana's first multimodal facility to facilitate the movement of energy parts and components, agricultural commodities and manufactured goods—a significant commercial accomplishment for the region, state and nation. Montana manufacturers lack the ability to containerize cargo for export delivery to world markets. 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.

As funding applications are evaluated, I hope that you will carefully consider the project's many benefits.

Sincerely,



Deb Brandon
Executive Director

Deb Brandon

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