

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705
December 14, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write in support of the Port of Longview's submission to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FASTLANE Grant Program. The Industrial Rail Corridor (IRC) expansion project is a key part of the Port's strategy to promote economic opportunities and foster family-wage job creation in Cowlitz County, which is experiencing eight percent unemployment.

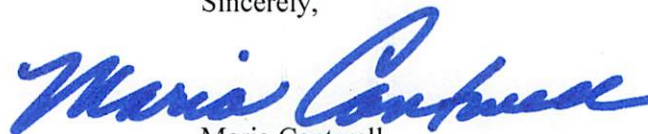
Ports along the Columbia River are uniquely positioned to respond to the growing demand for U.S. grain exports by China and other Pacific Rim countries. The Columbia River channel deepening project, completed in 2010 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, increased the reliability and capacity of this route for shippers and re-established the channel as a dependable and cost efficient option for the efficient movement of U.S. made goods. The channel deepening has stimulated over \$1 billion in public and private investment at terminals along the river, and the region continues to attract new opportunities for trade.

The Port of Longview is Washington state's third largest port and is the first deep draft, full service operating port on the Columbia River. Operations at the Port of Longview are critical to the local economy, supporting one in ten local jobs and generating \$444 million in economic activity. As regional ports along the Columbia River invest in their terminal and transportation infrastructure, it is imperative that the Port of Longview update their facilities to compete.

The IRC expansion project would relocate existing rail infrastructure to accommodate three new through tracks and five new sidings while allowing for increased train clearance lengths of 8,500 feet and greater. The project removes at-grade crossings, increasing safety for local residents. These improvements would reduce existing freight train congestion, provide much needed unit train access and staging for current customers, and contribute to the redevelopment of underutilized berths by future tenants.

Expansion of rail service at the Port of Longview is essential to maintaining this facility as the premier heavy-lift and bulk cargo handling destination on the West Coast of the United States. I ask for full and fair consideration of the Port of Longview's application to the FASTLANE Grant Program.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

EVERETT
2930 WETMORE AVENUE
SUITE 9B
EVERETT, WA 98201
(425) 303-0114
FAX: (425) 303-8351

RICHLAND
825 JADWIN AVENUE
SUITE 204/204A
RICHLAND, WA 99352
(509) 946-8106
FAX: (509) 946-6937

SEATTLE
JACKSON FEDERAL BUILDING
915 2ND AVENUE, SUITE 3206
SEATTLE, WA 98174-1003
(206) 220-6400
TOLL FREE: 1-888-648-7328
FAX: (206) 220-6404

SPOKANE
U.S. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE
WEST 920 RIVERSIDE, SUITE 697
SPOKANE, WA 99201
(509) 353-2507
FAX: (509) 353-2547

TACOMA
950 PACIFIC AVENUE
SUITE 615
TACOMA, WA 98402
(253) 572-2281
FAX: (253) 572-5879

VANCOUVER
MARSHALL HOUSE
1313 OFFICERS' ROW
FIRST FLOOR
VANCOUVER, WA 98661
(360) 696-7838
FAX: (360) 696-7844

WASHINGTON, DC
511 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705
(202) 224-3441
FAX: (202) 228-0514