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December 13, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing to express my support for the Port of Longview's Industrial Rail Corridor (IRC) project. The Port of Longview is applying for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-Term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) 2017 grant program.

The Port of Longview is located in a rural, economically distressed area of Washington state with nearly 8 percent unemployment. The IRC project will create additional employment opportunities for residents, enhance the volume of freight traffic through the region, and decrease the amount of potentially dangerous at-grade rail crossings in the community.

The IRC project consists of relocating the original IRC north to accommodate additional through tracks and sidings with clear lengths of 8,500 feet and greater. The Port of Longview believes this increased rail access will provide optimal staging for current customers and future tenants on redeveloped, underutilized berths. Furthermore, these improvements set the stage for the future Barlow Point Terminals programmed for redevelopment over the next five years.

Thank you for your consideration of this important transportation project. I ask that you please keep me informed when you award the FASTLANE grants. Please direct the information to Jordan Meade at Jordan.meade@mail.house.gov or via telephone at 360-695-6292.

Sincerely,

Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress