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July 9, 2018

Secretary Elaine Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

Please accept this correspondence as City of Longview's official support of the Port of Longview's BUILD application for the Industrial Rail Corridor Expansion (IRCE) project in Washington State.

The project realigns the original Industrial Rail Corridor to accommodate additional through tracks and sidings with clear lengths of 8,500 feet to meet growing rail industry standards. Increasing rail access will provide optimal staging for current customers and future tenants on redeveloped, underutilized berths. Furthermore, these improvements set the stage for the development of 280 acres at the Port's Barlow Point Terminals.

As the first operating port on the Columbia River's deep-draft federal navigation channel with direct access to mainline rail, the IRCE project will facilitate growing international trade demand into and out of the Pacific Northwest of the United States.

The Port of Longview is uniquely served by both Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific railroads, which grants Port customers greater access to inland rail networks across the United States and allows a variety of commodities to move seamlessly through our region. The corridor currently supports millions of tons of agriculture and mineral bulk cargos, as well as wind energy and project breakbulk cargos that generate jobs far beyond the borders of the Port.

The Port of Longview is a critical link in our nation's supply chain. By improving strategic rail access to this premiere west coast cargo handling facility, we are investing in our nation's access to international markets that support economies across the United States.

The Port's forethought and execution of past projects has demonstrated stewardship of federal funds resulting in tangible economic impacts within the region and local community. I hope you will strongly consider selecting this project to receive funding through the BUILD program.

Sincerely,

Don Jensen
Mayor