

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

April 6, 2010

Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

As you may know, Washington State leads the nation in exports per capita and ranks fourth in total exports. The health of Washington State's economy is inextricably linked to the ability of our nation's freight infrastructure to move goods quickly and efficiently. While I am encouraged by President Obama's goal of doubling American exports within the next five years, such an ambitious goal cannot be realized without adequate consideration for America's freight infrastructure. American producers and shippers already spend more than \$660 billion annually to move freight and demand is expected to increase significantly in the coming decade.

To meet this challenge, I am calling on you to develop a comprehensive and integrated national freight strategy that includes ports. The strategy must address all transportation modes impacting the movement of freight, including highway, rail, waterways, aviation, and pipeline. A federal freight strategy will help create end-to-end solutions necessary to prevent bottlenecks and incentivize state and local planning organizations to coordinate efforts and spread costs. Our ports are a critical piece of our freight infrastructure and must receive close consideration in any national freight strategy.

Lastly, the United States needs a national goods movement program to help guide new federal, state, local, and private investments. The program should include dedicated funding for freight mobility projects of national and regional significance, and efforts should be taken to ensure that formula dollars passed to the state departments of transportation and metropolitan planning organizations are used in a way that recognizes and prioritizes the needs of our freight system. Public ports should have the opportunity to compete directly for funds from this program.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you to improve our nation's freight mobility system.

Sincerely,



United States Senator
Maria Cantwell

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