

FREIGHT Act
Supporting Quotes from Washington State Transportation Officials
Distributed at Senator Cantwell's Port of Tacoma Press Conference
Friday, August 13, 2010

“Millions of family-wage jobs depend on our ability to move freight quickly and efficiently. The U.S. needs a transportation investment strategy that makes sure the projects that create jobs and make us more competitive get the dollars they need. The FREIGHT Act gives us a strategy to build a stronger, more sustainable transportation system.”

– *Tay Yoshitani, CEO, Port of Seattle*

“Ports are a key element to a strong economy, creating jobs for local communities that produce goods and for the companies and people who handle them along the trade route. We appreciate Sen. Cantwell's efforts to make a national freight strategy a priority. The thousands of trade-related jobs in our region depend on it.”

– *Don Johnson, Commission President, Port of Tacoma*

“Greater federal investment in infrastructure that moves freight through the system is critical for our region and our nation. At the Port of Vancouver, our rail improvement projects that were funded in part by state and federal dollars are attracting private sector investment, which means jobs and increased revenue for our communities; but we need more help making those initial investments that get us to the long-term benefits.”

– *Addison Jacobs, Director of Public Affairs, Port of Vancouver*

“Investment in trade facilities is critical to the ongoing prosperity of Washington State and our nation. Unlike other counties or states, Washington State will not likely see the construction of a new port in our lifetime. The FREIGHT Act will prioritize our infrastructure needs, and support investment in port facilities to provide for the efficient and effective transfer of goods. The efforts of Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell will also provide for the creation of local, family-wage jobs and investment opportunities in Everett and throughout Washington State.”

– *John Mohr, Executive Director, Port of Everett*

“President Obama has emphasized that increasing American exports is vital to stimulating our national economy and the Port of Grays Harbor is positioned to play a major role for American exports, but rail is critical to our customers' and our community's growth. We applaud the leadership of Senators Cantwell and Murray for introducing the 2010 FREIGHT Act. It is critical and visionary legislation to strategically address the national freight transportation system, and vital for the efficient and safe movement of cargo through our PNW port gateways.”

– *Gary Nelson, Executive Director, Port of Grays Harbor*

“The State of Washington has clearly established itself as a national leader in promoting investments in freight mobility as essential to economic development. It is therefore fitting, and much appreciated by those in the business of moving freight, that Senator Cantwell is demonstrating the same leadership at the Federal level with the introduction of the FREIGHT Act.”

– Ken O’Hollaren, Executive Director, **Port of Longview**

“Freight mobility is critical to us as we add jobs and business opportunity in our light industrial areas. All of our industrial properties are very close to Interstate 5, and the BNSF mainline. We see improved freight routes in our state as a critical investment.”

– Nelson Holmberg, Executive Director, **Port of Woodland**

“In light of the economic situation, it is good to see the federal focus on freight.”

– Jim Lucas, President, **Port of Kalama Commission**

“Union Pacific (UP) Railroad commends Senator Cantwell for convening today’s meeting on the significant public policy challenges relating to our nation’s transportation infrastructure which plays an important role in fostering economic growth and job creation in Washington and across our nation. We thank Senator Cantwell for introducing the *Focusing Resources, Economic Investment and Guidance to Help Transportation (FREIGHT) Act of 2010*. This bill recognizes the importance of rail as the safest, most fuel efficient and highly cost effective way to move both people and goods. Freight railroads can move one ton of freight 480 miles on a single gallon of fuel and provide a vital link between American businesses, our nation’s ports and the global marketplace. Freight rail is well positioned to help meet the goals envisioned by the Senators, and outlined in the FREIGHT Act.”

– Brock Nelson, Director of Public Affairs, **Union Pacific Railroad** (Washington and Oregon)

“On behalf of the hard-working members of the ILWU, we applaud Senators Cantwell, Murray, and Lautenberg for their commitment to invest in our nation’s freight transportation system and create jobs for the American worker. We look forward to advancing this important national priority together. There is a direct correlation between making the necessary investments in our transportation system and job creation. Major investments in rail and fast corridors to move our products must be of the highest priority. As our country faces the worst economic crisis in generations, it is clear that such investments in robust transportation by the federal government must be a central component of putting people back to work and restoring a badly weakened economy. By making these investments, we will move exports more efficiently, and create higher paying jobs with good benefits for workers in the trade, transportation, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors of our country.”

– Lindsay McLaughlin, Legislative Director, **International Longshore and Warehouse Union**

“The Freight Act is the right legislation at the right time for workers and their families all across America. The development of a National Freight Policy, which includes establishment of the Office of Freight Planning and Development to carry out the goals and objectives of this legislation, will create many jobs for Longshoremens directly and for all the trade-related sectors required to move the nation’s exports and imports. Additionally, the construction jobs created as a result of this legislation to build efficient national freight transportation are desperately needed at this time. As workers we particularly appreciate the health, safety and environmental provisions of the bill that aim to reduce transportation-related fatalities and reduction of transportation-related carbon dioxide levels by 40 percent by 2030. This legislation aligns perfectly with Labor’s desire to advance President Obama’s export initiative that will benefit workers, manufacturers and farmers throughout the country.

“The ILWU applauds Senators Cantwell, Murray and Lautenberg for their commitment to invest in nation’s freight transportation system and creating jobs for the American worker. We look forward to advancing this important national priority together.”

– *Scott Mason, President, International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 23*

"Having a strategic plan to keep freight moving, like the one proposed in this bill, is critical to stabilize and grow our economy. Everyone is impacted by the efficient movement of our commerce, whether it is shopping for food, clothes and household goods or at worksites where agricultural and manufactured products need to be transported to global markets to support local jobs. An efficient freight system will hold costs down. "

– *Karen Schmidt, Executive Director, Washington State Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board*

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