



COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS, INC.

Post Office Box 295, Rosalia, Washington 99170 509-523-3511 • 1-800-258-4293 • Fax 509-523-5858

September 3, 2009

BRANCH OFFICES:

OAKESDALE • 509-285-4311 • 1-800-772-0210 • Fax 509-285-5930
FAIRFIELD • 509-283-2124 • Fax 509-283-2476

PCC Rail Authority
C/O Joe Poire, President
302 N Mill Street
Colfax, WA 99111

Dear Joe;

On behalf of the more than 600 members of Cooperative Agricultural Producers, Inc, I am writing this letter of support for the TIGER funding, which is being requested by the PCC Rail Authority. We are a grain cooperative in the Northern Whitman County and Southern Spokane County area and ship hundreds of cars of grain each year on the P&L Line that runs from Marshall down to Pullman. This past marketing year, we shipped over 1,100 railcars of grain on the P&L line.

We depend on both rail and truck/barge to get the grain that we harvest to the ports in Washington and Oregon for export. Each railcar that we load is equivalent to 3 semi truckloads. From our area in Northern Whitman County, rail is far more efficient in diesel usage and reduces carbon emissions in the air than taking the grain by truck to the Snake River to load on barges. We prefer to use rail. Our rail lines have been used for the last century and it has been many years since repairs have been made to keep them in usable condition. This past year, we actually had a train derailment between Rosalia and Oakesdale due to the poor track conditions. The loss in time and grain is very costly and inefficient for our company, and the conditions of the track make it more difficult each year to market the crops in an efficient and orderly manner.

The use of rail to ship our grain is also safer than shipping by truck, as it keeps thousands of semi trucks off narrow county roads which weren't built wide enough to handle the size and volume of the truck traffic. The cost to maintain the highways for that amount of truck traffic is also burdensome on the local taxpayers.

In conclusion, we support the application for the TIGER funding in order to upgrade the rail infrastructure on the P&L line and to make our rail shipping a more reliable option for the ag products in our area.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline R. Tee, Manager