

August 24, 2009

RE: TIGER Grant Application

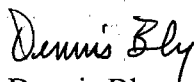
TO: Whom it May Concern

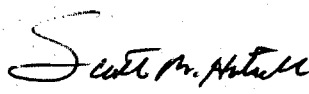
The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners strongly support the TIGER grant application being submitted by the Palouse to Coulee City Rail Authority (PCCRA). The Palouse to Coulee City Railroad is a Washington State owned, regional rail asset that moves billions of bushels of grain from the central and northern portions of Eastern Washington to ports on the Columbia River, in Portland and in Seattle. The PCCRA was formed to provide local oversight of the railroad and is comprised of the four counties in which the rails system is located.

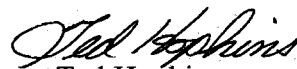
The PCC rail system is vital to the economic vitality of the entire region. The State of Washington purchased the railroad in 2006, and has spent over 11 million dollars in the initial rehabilitation of the system. The system is operable, but needs considerably more work to become truly viable from an operator perspective. Given the current economic situation, it is doubtful that the State will be able to dedicate any near future dollars to the railroad rehabilitation. If this rail system is allowed to fail, and it will without more rehabilitation funds, the impact on the roads systems of the State, the counties and the cities is enormous! The State of Washington has estimated that the potential damage to its roads alone, were the rails system to go away, would be over 4 million dollars per year. Lincoln County estimated that they would require over 15 million dollars of additional maintenance to their roads for the first year if the rail system disappeared. The other counties and cities along the entire system would be similarly affected if the rail system is not provided the needed funds to improve the level of maintenance.

We strongly urge you to select this worthy project for the TIGER grant program.

Respectfully,

  
 Dennis Bly  
 Chairman

  
 Scott Hutsell  
 District #2

  
 Ted Hopkins  
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