



**Port of
Whitman
County**

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September 14, 2009

Re: TIGER Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

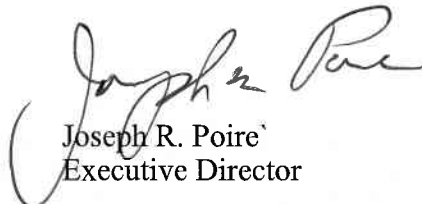
The Port of Whitman County strongly supports the TIGER grant application being submitted by the Palouse Coulee City Rail Authority. As a member of the Rail Authority, the Port works to encourage a balanced and economical multi-modal transportation system serving agriculture, commerce and industry. We formally participate in the State Transportation and Rail Plans on a regular basis and partner with local railroads to preserve and enhance rail service to our constituents in Whitman County.

The PCC rail system is vital to Whitman County and our surrounding region. One of the major agricultural employers in our region, The McGregor Company, expressed in writing an interest to increase shipments and expand its capacity if we can assure continued reliable rail service. The company has been a shipper on the line for over fifty years and projects it could increase its shipments by more than 500 cars annually. This would be a significant economic impact to our county and the other three counties that are represented by the PCC Rail Authority. Funding for rehabilitation of the PCC rail system is necessary to ensure our shippers have a reliable source of freight transportation.

Without funding for rehabilitation, the PCC rail system will fail, negatively affecting the agricultural economy and impacting the road systems of the counties and cities along the entire system. TIGER discretionary funds will rehabilitate the rail infrastructure for long term viability; create and retain jobs in distressed rural communities; and result in environmental benefits such as reduced carbon emissions and fuel consumption.

We urge you to support this project with TIGER funding.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Poire
Executive Director