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May 31, 2013

The Honorable Raymond L. LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Fife's TIGER proposal for Port of Tacoma Interchange Improvement Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to strongly support for the City of Fife's TIGER grant application for the Port of Tacoma Interchange Improvement Project.

Funding from this TIGER grant will finance a multi-phased plan to improve the Port of Tacoma Road, its interchange with Interstate 5, and Pacific Highway East. Improvements to these components of our infrastructure will make the Port of Tacoma more accessible, increase freight mobility and reduce correlative congestion. This will substantially benefit residents and businesses of Fife and Tacoma, and improve the economic health of our region.

The Puget Sound is the third largest gateway in North America for containerized cargo, and the Port of Tacoma/Interstate 5 interchange is critical for the movement of this cargo. 70% of international container cargo passing through the Port of Tacoma is bound for the Midwest and East Coast. The Port provides and supports over 40,000 jobs, and generates almost \$640 million in annual wages in Pierce County alone. Our economy depends on a well-functioning port, as does the Nation's reliable access to goods.

Given the Port of Tacoma Interchange Improvement Project's importance on a regional and national scale, I fully support the City of Fife's efforts to secure a TIGER grant for the project. If you have any questions, please contact Meadow Johnson in my Tacoma Office at (253) 272-3515.

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress