



Port of Benton

Rail Caucus Legislators Tour Tri-Cities Rail Network

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Members of the bipartisan Washington State Rail Caucus met in the Tri-Cities in September to hear from local, state and industry stakeholders about pressing issues impacting freight rail in the region.

The Port of Benton's short line has the distinction of transporting the second highest tonnage of goods in the state, flowing from the Tri-Cities to both national and international markets.

The Rail Caucus members work together to improve freight and passenger rail industries, which are integral to Washington's economy. The meeting was the start of priority-setting for projects the lawmakers will consider helping fund during the 2023 legislative session.

The group and representatives from the Washington State Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board and Washington Department of Transportation also toured rail shippers in Richland and Pasco that depend on rail transport. Stops included Lineage Logistics, Packaging Corporation of America, Central Washington Corn Processors and BNSF, the largest classification yard in the state.

Port of Benton and Port of Pasco co-hosted the two-day session and highlighted the critical importance of rail transport for local businesses and the 75 ports throughout the state.

Rail Caucus members tour the Lineage Logistics control room (above right photo). Group members learning more about Central Washington Corn Processors operations (middle photo). Some of the legislators with Port of Benton Commissioners and staff (bottom photo).

