



## BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

### Regional Planning Agency for Benton & Franklin Counties

March 20, 2024

Senator Maria Cantwell  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Support for Port of Benton's White Bluffs Rail Project Modernization and Intermodal Facility CDS Request.

Senator Cantwell,

The Benton-Franklin Council of Governments is pleased to support the Port of Benton's CDS request for the White Bluffs Rail Project Modernization and Intermodal Facility. This vital project will secure infrastructure to support value-added agricultural, advanced manufacturing, truck parking, and their related supply chain to increase products to domestic and international markets by using rail/intermodal facilities to get products directly to the Northwest Seaport Alliance gateways, reducing carbon emissions and creating clean energy careers.

The project is part of a comprehensive plan to modernize and rehabilitate the White Bluff Rail line and develop an intermodal facility in Richland, Washington, aimed at fostering industrial growth, particularly in clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and retaining and expanding the value-added agriculture sectors such as Lamb Weston, Linage Logistics and Atlas Agro, a green fertilizer company that is part of the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub.

The project involves a partnership between the Port of Benton and the City of Richland, leveraging the existing rail infrastructure and undeveloped industrial land in the Horn Rapids Industrial Park and surrounding areas. The Port's rail line is the critical link between a successful and growing cluster of freight-dependent businesses in the industrial park and the regional rail network operated by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad.

This project is listed in the 2021-2025 Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and meets the following CEDS goals:

**Goal 1:** To improve the municipal infrastructure to support a growing and diverse population in an increasingly carbon-free economy.

**Goal 2:** To effectively plan for economic diversification and innovation.

**Goal 3:** To enhance economic resilience and workforce development.

The Ports White Bluffs Rail is already the second largest short line in the state, offsetting 1.3M tons annually; each unit train removes 310 trucks from our roadways, supporting our region and

State's climate goals to reduce emissions. Therefore, we fully support this project; it creates long-term career opportunities, fosters community prosperity, provides overall economic development in the region, and contributes to the state's economic vitality.

Sincerely,

*Michelle M. Holt*

Michelle Holt, Executive Director

**CITY OF RICHLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

625 Swift Boulevard, MS-4  
Richland, WA 99352  
(509) 942-7390



March 25, 2024

Senator Maria Cantwell  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Support for Port of Benton's White Bluffs Rail Project Modernization and Intermodal Facility CDS Request.

Senator Cantwell,

The City is pleased to support the Port of Benton's CDS request for the White Bluffs Rail Project Modernization and Intermodal Facility. This important project will secure infrastructure to support value add agricultural, advanced manufacturing, truck parking and their related supply chain to increase products to domestic and international markets by using rail/intermodal facilities to get products directly to the Northwest Seaport Alliance gateways, reducing carbon emissions and creating clean energy careers.

The project is a part of a comprehensive plan to modernize and rehabilitate the White Bluff Rail line and develop an intermodal facility in Richland, Washington, aimed at fostering industrial growth, particularly in clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and retain and expand the value-added agriculture sectors such as Lamb Weston, Linage Logistics and Atlas Agro a green fertilizer company that is part of the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub.

The project involves a partnership between the Port of Benton and the City of Richland, leveraging the existing rail infrastructure and undeveloped industrial land in the Horn Rapids Industrial Park and surrounding areas. The Port's rail line is the critical link between a successful and growing cluster of freight-dependent businesses in the industrial park and the regional rail network operated by both Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad.

The Ports White Bluffs Rail is already the second largest short line in the state off setting 1.3M tons annually; each unit train removes 310 trucks from our roadways supporting our region and state's climate goals to reduce emissions. Therefore, we fully support this project; it creates long-term career opportunities, foster community prosperity, provides overall economic development in the region and contributes to the state's economic vitality.

Sincerely,

Jon Amundson, ICMA-CM  
City Manager



March 20, 2024

Senator Maria Cantwell  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Support for Port of Benton's White Bluffs Rail Project Modernization and Intermodal Facility CDS Request.

Senator Cantwell,

Columbia Rail Group is pleased to support the Port of Benton's CDS request for the White Bluffs Rail Project Modernization and Intermodal Facility. This important project will secure infrastructure to support value add agricultural, advanced manufacturing, truck parking and their related supply chain to increase products to domestic and international markets by using rail/intermodal facilities to get products directly to the Northwest Seaport Alliance gateways, reducing carbon emissions and creating clean energy careers.

The project is a part of a comprehensive plan to modernize and rehabilitate the White Bluff Rail line and develop an intermodal facility in Richland, Washington, aimed at fostering industrial growth, particularly in clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and retain and expand the value-added agriculture sectors such as Lamb Weston, Lineage Logistics and Atlas Agro, a green fertilizer company that is part of the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub.

The project involves a partnership between the Port of Benton and the City of Richland, leveraging the existing rail infrastructure and undeveloped industrial land in the Horn Rapids Industrial Park and surrounding areas. As we, Columbia Rail Group, are the Port's Rail Line Operator, we recognize that this is the critical link between a successful and growing cluster of freight-dependent businesses in the industrial park and the regional rail network operated by Columbia Rail Group, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, and Union Pacific.

The Port's White Bluffs Rail is already the second largest short line in the state off setting 1.3M tons annually. Each unit train removes 310 trucks from our roadways supporting our region and state's climate goals to reduce emissions. Therefore, we fully support this project; it creates long-term career opportunities, foster community prosperity, provides overall economic development in the region and contributes to the state's economic vitality.

Sincerely,

Nick Zamantakis

*Nick Zamantakis*

Manager of Operations  
Columbia Rail Group  
Project Mgr-Port of Benton

March 19, 2024

Senator Maria Cantwell  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Support for the Port of Benton's White Bluffs Rail Project Modernization and Intermodal Facility CDS Request**

Senator Cantwell,

On behalf of the Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC), I would like to offer our full support of the Port of Benton's CDS request for the White Bluffs Rail Project Modernization and Intermodal Facility. This important project will secure infrastructure to support value-added agricultural, advanced manufacturing, truck parking, and their related supply chain to increase products to domestic and international markets by using rail/intermodal facilities to get products directly to the Northwest Seaport Alliance gateways, reducing carbon emissions and creating clean energy careers.

The project is part of a comprehensive plan to modernize and rehabilitate the White Bluff Rail line and develop an intermodal facility in Richland, Washington, aimed at fostering industrial growth, particularly in clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and retain and expand the value-added agriculture sectors such as Lamb Weston, Lineage Logistics, and Atlas Agro a green fertilizer company which is part of the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub.

The project involves a partnership between the Port of Benton and the City of Richland, leveraging the existing rail infrastructure and undeveloped industrial land in the Horn Rapids Industrial Park and surrounding areas. The Port's rail line is the critical link between a successful and growing cluster of freight-dependent businesses in the industrial park and the regional rail network operated by both Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad.

The Ports White Bluffs Rail is already the second largest short line in the state, offsetting 1.3M tons annually; each unit train removes 310 trucks from our roadways supporting our region and state's climate goals to reduce emissions.

TRIDEC wholeheartedly encourages you to support the Port of Benton's CDS request which creates long-term career opportunities, fosters community prosperity, provides overall economic development in the region, and contributes to the state's economic vitality.

Sincerely,



Karl Dye  
President & CEO