



BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Regional Planning Agency for Benton & Franklin Counties

March 25, 2024

Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell 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 Murray,

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 Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Senator Murray,

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Amundson'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'J' and 'A'.

Jon Amundson, ICMA-CM
City Manager



March 25, 2024

Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell 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 Murray,

Columbia Rail Group, the Port of Benton's railroad operator, is pleased to support the POB'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. 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 Columbia Rail Group, 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,

Nick Zamantakis

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nick Zamantakis".

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

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

The Northwest Seaport Alliance is pleased to support the Port of Benton's Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request for the White Bluffs Rail Project Modernization and Intermodal Facility. This important project will support improved access to domestic and international markets for Eastern Washington businesses via direct rail access to Northwest Seaport Alliance terminals.

This CDS request would fund a number of critical safety improvements throughout the railyard and at several at-grade crossings. 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 the clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and value-added agricultural sectors. By leveraging existing rail infrastructure and undeveloped industrial lands in and around the Horn Rapids Industrial Park, the Port of Benton and City of Richland will bolster this critical link between a successful and growing cluster of freight-dependent businesses in the industrial park and the regional rail network comprised of both BNSF and Union Pacific facilities.

The Port of Benton's White Bluffs Rail line is the second largest short line railroad in the state. Each unit train represents a reduction of 310 truck trips, and in 2023 the rail line moved 1.3 million tons of freight. This in turn supports regional and national climate goals with more energy efficient goods movement. The NWSA is committed to partnering with inland ports and intermodal facilities like the Port of Benton to foster reliable export opportunities, create jobs and economic growth, reduce emissions, and strengthen regional supply chains. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



John Wolfe
CEO
The Northwest Seaport Alliance



April 1, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Senator Murray,

On behalf of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), I write in support the Port of Benton's Congressionally Directed Spending (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 and 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. The plan is aimed at fostering industrial growth, particularly in clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and retention and expansion of the value-added agriculture sectors and companies such as Lamb Weston, Linage Logistics and Atlas Agro which is a green fertilizer company and 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 Port's White Bluffs Rail is already the second largest short line in the state off setting 1.3M tons of emissions annually. Each unit train removes 310 trucks from our roadways supporting our region and state's climate goals to reduce emissions. PNWA supports this project as it creates long-term career opportunities, fosters community prosperity, provides overall economic development in the region and contributes to the state's economic vitality. PNWA appreciates your full and fair consideration of the Port of Benton's CDS request.

Sincerely,

Neil Maunu
Executive Director
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association

March 25, 2024

Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell 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 Murray,

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.

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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