

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

May 29, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the Port of Kalama's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program. The Port of Kalama is seeking \$24,595,000 for the Port of Kalama Rail Expansion project.

The Port of Kalama, located in Cowlitz County, exports approximately 15 million tons of grain each year. The Port's grain exports include soybeans, corn, and wheat from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. In 2020, the Port was the top exporter of soybeans on the West Coast and 16<sup>th</sup> in the county. Approximately 1,400 jobs are supported by businesses on the Port.

If successful, the Port of Kalama will use the grant funding to expand the Port's rail yard at the TEMCO grain export marine terminal to improve efficiency. The rail line will be supplemented by 31,680 linear feet of rail while 10,560 linear feet will be removed. This project will reconfigure and expand the rail support yard, which will improve the loading of grain and soybeans to export ships and increase the terminal capacity and efficiency by an average of 30%. Additionally, this project will help retain TEMCO as a Port tenant, securing TEMCO's 126 union jobs, while 40 temporary, family-wage construction jobs will also be created by the project.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the Port of Kalama's application to the PIDP.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell

United States Senator