

Dear Senator Beyer and Representative McKeown,

I am writing in support of the much-needed Treasure Valley Intermodal Facility for Malheur County. Our local agricultural industry is at a great disadvantage because of our geographical location. Transportation issues are of great concern because of our remoteness from major cities where trucks are unloaded with goods from other regions and the trucks have to dead head hundreds of miles to our county. Our local onion industry ships approximately 33,000 trucklots annually and many times trucks are difficult to find at reasonable rates which leaves us at a disadvantage with other onion shipping areas such as Washington state which has Railex service and closer proximity to cities such as Portland, Spokane and Seattle. Onions is the leading revenue generating crop for Malheur County with fob sales being \$75-100 million dollars annually. Many of our other ag products such as hay, grain, seed crops, processed potato products, dairy products and cattle would also benefit from such a facility.

I am respectfully requesting that the JTPM please consider our situation and needs when reviewing the Treasure Valley Intermodal Facility.

Thank you,

**Grant Kitamura**