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August 5, 2020

Representative Dan Rayfield

Senator Betsy Johnson

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Honorable Co-Chairs,

I write today to express and convey my strong support of an allocation of \$5M dollars to the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, which will serve as a match for an already approved federal BUILD grant. The State's investment would leverage an additional \$20M to allow for the continued improvement and revitalization of the Coos Bay Rail Line, specifically the Vaughn Viaduct Rail Bridge. Since the Port took ownership of the rail line over ten years ago, they have worked tirelessly to employ a variety of means to revitalize and repurpose track and related infrastructure that is over a century old. Since then, through the support of both state and federal partners, the Port has invested an enormous amount of time and money. These efforts have paid dividends through restoring rail service to shippers in Southwestern Oregon..

In March of this year, we opened the Greenhill Reload Coastal Reload Yard on the North Spit in Coos County. This multi-commodity terminal serves the entire Southern Oregon Coast Region, shipping high quality aggregate and forest products to and from the northern terminus in West Eugene to the Port. Greenhill and the Port have been working together to market this facility to support job growth and enhance the economic vitality of the entire region. This facility further

provides value by limiting the amount of truck traffic on coastal highways through increased utilization of freight rail. This example is one of several each of the six other primary shippers who currently use the Coos Bay Rail Link could provide.

While I realize the Legislature is navigating difficult budgetary decisions in the coming Special Session, I feel it is vitally important to ensure that necessary resources are available to the Port of Coos Bay to retail the significant investment the Federal Government has committed.. Thank you for your thoughtful work on behalf of Oregonians as you and your colleagues make extremely difficult budgetary decisions. I appreciate your time to hear my thoughts, and it is my genuine hope you will consider my letter as you finalize your budgetary framework for the remainder of the biennium.

Sincerely,



Greg Demers

Managing Partner

CC:

Representative Caddy McKeown

Senator Arnie Roblan