



Spokane International Airport

# Rail-Truck Transload Facility Project

## BUILD FY2019 Grant Application Spokane, Washington

### Appendix A: Letters of Support

#### LEGISLATIVE

US Senator Patty Murray  
US Senator Maria Cantwell  
US Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rogers  
Washington State Senators Jeff Holy, Andy Billig, Mark Schoesler, Mike Padden, Shelly Short, Judy Warnick

#### LOCAL

City of Spokane – City Council President Ben Stuckart  
City of Spokane – Mayor David Condon  
Greater Spokane Incorporated – CEO Todd Mielke  
Spokane Regional Transportation Council (MPO) – Executive Director Sabrina Minshall  
Spokane County – County Commissioners Mary Kuney, Al French and Josh Kerns  
West Plains Airport Area Public Development Authority – Executive Director Todd Coleman

#### STATE

WSDOT - Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar

#### PRIVATE PARTNERS

Exotic Metals Forming Company, LLC  
Far West Agribusiness Association  
Inland Empire Distribution Systems Logistics, Inc.  
Mullen Technologies, Inc.  
Seaport Steal  
Washington Equipment Manufacturing Company, Inc.  
Washington Eastern Railroad, LLC  
Waste Management, Inc.  
Zak! Designs, Inc.  
Avista Utilities

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

July 26, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in support of an application submitted by the Spokane International Airport for the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants* program for the Rail-Truck Transload Facility project.

The Spokane International Airport is seeking a BUILD grant to complete Phase 2 of the Rail-Truck Transload Facility Project, a multi-modal freight hub network transfer point. The project would involve demolishing 18.4 acres of the site, installing lighting, water service, sanitary sewer service, stormwater treatment and flow control for paved areas, trans loading equipment, 4.4 acres of heavy duty concrete pavement and 1200 feet of long access road. Additional railway improvements would include approximately 4.3 miles of new trackwork, five turnouts, and a signalization at Craig Road. At full-buildout, the facility would have capacity to accommodate full unit trains or 400 rail cars.

The proposed facility is strategically located in the West Plains, a rural, undeveloped area with the potential to meet the future demands of the Spokane area's growing manufacturing and industrial firms. The site would be served by four I-90 interchanges, the BNSF railway – a class 1 freight railroad - and would be located directly west of the Spokane International Airport. Additionally, the site would be in close proximity to existing aerospace, technology and manufacturing industries.

Washington state, the City of Spokane, and Spokane County recognize the importance of this facility, and have produced a significant local match for the project. The three have partnered to create the state's first ever City/County structure Public Development Authority for the project. Moreover, the Spokane International Airport has an annual economic impact of \$750 million, and this project would allow the airport to enhance its role as a logistics hub. With this BUILD grant, the airport would be able to continue its support of the region's economy by providing more efficient freight transport, decongesting local interstate, and improving the region's economic competitiveness.

Thank you for your consideration of the Spokane International Airport's application. Please contact Flannery Fox in my Washington, D.C., office at 202-224-2621 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray  
United States Senator

154 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
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(202) 224-2621

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SUITE 903  
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915 2ND AVENUE  
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TOLL FREE: (866) 481-9186

10 NORTH POST STREET  
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SPOKANE, WA 99201-0712  
(509) 624-9515

950 PACIFIC AVENUE  
SUITE 650  
TACOMA, WA 98402-4450  
(253) 572-3636

THE MARSHALL HOUSE  
1323 OFFICER'S ROW  
VANCOUVER, WA 98661-3856  
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402 EAST YAKIMA AVENUE  
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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

July 11, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in the support of Spokane International Airport's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD). These funds will be used for to build a Rail-Truck Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport.

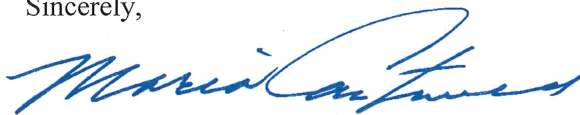
According to the Spokane International Airport, the Transload Facility will provide a multi-modal freight hub network transfer point for the West Plains area. By maximizing the cost and geographical efficiencies of multiple modes, reducing congestion and providing easy access from industrial locations and major labor centers, developing this proposed facility will lower costs and improve efficiency for shippers and manufacturers. It will also help strengthen the existing regional freight infrastructure network that includes convenient access to four interchanges off of Interstate 90 as well as the Airport's commercial and cargo air freight capabilities.

The proposed Transload Facility project will construct 1.7 miles of new track alignment, two loading tracks, and a running track equipped with all the infrastructure necessary for their operation. Phase 1 construction will also include the extension of critical water, gas, and sewer lines to the facility and the construction of new roads and fencing to provide access and security.

The project is seeking \$12 million under BUILD to complete Phase I of its development. The development of this facility is a critical step to not only support current business development, but also attract large aerospace manufacturers, logistics and warehousing firms, and manufacturing companies to the West Plains area.

Thank you for full and fair consideration of Spokane International Airport's grant application.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

**EVERETT**  
2930 WETMORE AVENUE  
SUITE 9B  
EVERETT, WA 98201  
(425) 303-0114  
FAX: (425) 303-8351

**RICHLAND**  
825 JADWIN AVENUE  
SUITE 204/204A  
RICHLAND, WA 99352  
(509) 946-8106  
FAX: (509) 946-6937

**SEATTLE**  
JACKSON FEDERAL BUILDING  
915 2ND AVENUE, SUITE 3206  
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TOLL FREE: 1-888-648-7328  
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**SPOKANE**  
U.S. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE  
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FAX: (509) 353-2547

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SUITE 615  
TACOMA, WA 98402  
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**VANCOUVER**  
MARSHALL HOUSE  
1313 OFFICERS' ROW  
FIRST FLOOR  
VANCOUVER, WA 98661  
(360) 696-7838  
FAX: (360) 696-7844

**WASHINGTON, DC**  
511 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705  
(202) 224-3441  
FAX: (202) 228-0514

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS  
5TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE:  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

REPUBLICAN LEADER,  
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND  
COMMERCE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COUNTIES:  
ASOTIN  
COLUMBIA  
FERRY  
GARFIELD  
LINCOLN  
PEND OREILLE  
SPOKANE  
STEVENS  
WALLA WALLA  
WHITMAN

July 9, 2019

Secretary Elaine Chao  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

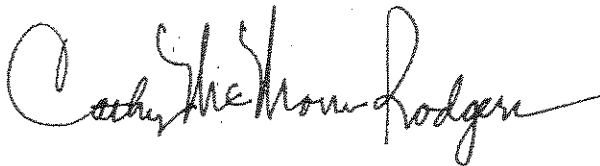
I am writing in strong support of the BUILD grant application submitted by the Spokane International Airport for development of a transload facility, which will support the airports role as a logistics hub and provide the West Plains with a multi-modal freight hub network transfer point. This has the potential to attract large aerospace manufacturers, logistics and warehousing firms, and manufacturing companies – which will in turn create jobs and boost the local economy.

The proposed Rail-Truck Transload Facility would be located in an area generally west of the Spokane International Airport. The proposed facility will link to the recently constructed trunk rail alignment that ties into the operational 5 mile Geiger Spur. The proposed facility consists of approximately 1.7 miles of new track alignment, tow loading tracks with a 2,000 foot clear length, one running track equipped with a tail track, five turnouts and signalization at Craig Road.

Earlier this year, the Washington State Legislature provided the proposed facility with \$500,000 from the State's Capital budget. This grant request includes the \$500,000 match along with \$1,000,000 match from the Airport and the PDA.

Thank you for providing a full and fair consideration of this application. Please contact Traci Couture in my Spokane District office at (509) 353-2374 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress, WA-05

1035 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2006  
FAX: (202) 225-3392

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(509) 684-3481

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[www.mcmorrisrodgers.house.gov](http://www.mcmorrisrodgers.house.gov)  
[www.mcmorrisrodgers.house.gov/facebook](http://www.mcmorrisrodgers.house.gov/facebook)



Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504-0482

## Washington State Senate

Phone: (360) 786-7550  
FAX: (360) 786-1999

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

July 10, 2019

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are pleased to write this letter of support for the Rail-Truck Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport BUILD transportation discretionary grant application for \$12 million. This BUILD Rural Project grant is a vital transportation-logistics investment to support current and future business development in the West Plains region.

The proposed Transload Facility supports the initiative to enhance the Airport's role as a logistics hub by maximizing the cost and geographical efficiencies of multiple modes, minimizing congestion, and providing easy access from industrial locations and major labor centers. Developing this proposed facility will deliver lower costs and/or improved efficiency to shippers and manufacturers.

The Transload facility would also complement the multiple logistical infrastructure investments previously awarded by the Washington State Legislature near the proposed site, including: \$24 million under the Connecting Washington program to rebuild two Interstate 90 interchanges, a \$2 million grant for the Trunk Rail Extension Project at Spokane International Airport that has directly connect the facility to the existing Geiger Spur Railroad line, and a \$500,000 grant for the initial phase of the rail-truck transload project. Additionally, it would further support the \$14.3 million BUILD grant investment the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded to Spokane County last December for the Geiger Boulevard Improvement Project, which is in close proximity to the proposed facility.

We support the BUILD discretionary grant for consideration for Spokane International Airport. Not only would it be an investment in improved modal connectivity, it would also help regional economies further develop into a global gateway for domestic and international trade.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeff Holy in black ink.

JEFF HOLY  
Washington State Senator  
6<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Andy Billig in black ink.

ANDY BILLIG  
Washington State Senator  
3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District  
*Majority Leader*

Handwritten signature of Mark Schoesler in black ink.

MARK SCHOESLER  
Washington State Senator  
9<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
*Republican Leader*



MIKE PADDEN  
Washington State Senator  
4<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



SHELLY SHORT  
Washington State Senator  
7<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



JUDY WARNICK  
Washington State Senator  
13<sup>th</sup> Legislative District





**SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL**  
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201-3335  
(509) 625-6255

Ben Stuckart  
Council President

June 25, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this as my letter of support for the Rail-Trunk Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport BUILD transportation discretionary grant application being submitted by Spokane Airports. Current and future business development in the West Plains region would be greatly enhanced with support from this BUILD Rural Project transportation-logistics investment.

The Airport's annual economic impact of over \$750 million is testimony to the integral role they play in regional economy, and the proposed Transload Facility would support the initiative to enhance the Airport's role as a logistics hub. By maximizing the cost and geographical efficiencies of multiple modes, minimizing congestion and providing easy access from industrial locations and major labor centers, developing this proposed facility will deliver lower costs and/or improved efficiency to shippers and manufacturers.

The facility would also be situated within the boundary of the West Plains-Airport Area Public Development Authority (PDA). It is the State's first City/County structured PDA and includes an innovative revenue sharing agreement providing a long-term revenue stream to support regional economic investments with an emphasis on delivery of strategic infrastructure. The construction of this facility would align with the PDA's mission to attract new manufacturing and aerospace development to grow jobs in the area.

I would strongly encourage you to consider Spokane Airport's \$12 million BUILD discretionary grant application, as it will be an investment in improved modal connectivity while also helping regional economies further develop into a global gateway for domestic and international trade.

Sincerely,

Ben Stuckart  
Spokane City Council President



## Mayor David A. Condon

July 11, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the City of Spokane, I am pleased to extend my support of the Rail-Truck Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport BUILD transportation discretionary grant application. The City of Spokane has prioritized and placed a focus on Public Safety, Infrastructure, and Jobs and Economic Growth, and this proposed BUILD Rural Project would be a crucial transportation-logistics investment to support current and future business development in the West Plains region.

The Airport's annual economic impact of over \$750 million is testimony to the integral role they play in regional economy, and the proposed Transload Facility supports the initiative to enhance the Airport's role as a logistics hub. By maximizing the cost and geographical efficiencies of multiple modes, minimizing congestion and providing easy access from industrial locations and major labor centers, developing this proposed facility will deliver lower costs and/or improved efficiency to shippers and manufacturers.

Additionally, this multi-modal freight hub network transfer point is a critical step to not only support current business development, but also attract large aerospace manufacturers, logistics and warehousing firms, and manufacturing companies to the West Plains area. It will also complement the existing regional freight infrastructure network that includes convenient access to four interchanges off of Interstate 90, as well as the Airport's commercial and cargo air freight capabilities.

I request the Airport's \$12 million BUILD transportation discretionary grant application be given careful consideration. The Rail-Truck Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport will be an investment in improved modal connectivity while also helping regional economies further develop into a global gateway for domestic and international trade.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "David A. Condon". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a cursive "Condon".

David A. Condon  
Mayor

***The City of Choice***

808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. • Spokane, Washington 99201-3335  
Phone: 509.625.6250 FAX: 509.625.6563





July 10, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of Greater Spokane Inc. (GSI), I am writing today to indicate my support of the Rail-Truck Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport BUILD transportation discretionary grant application.

GSI is committed to the expansion of the aerospace and advanced manufacturing industries. There are more than 120 aerospace-related companies in the region employing more than 12,000 people. GSI is always seeking opportunities to grow the region's capacity to serve as a supply chain for the aerospace industry. Spokane International Airport is a vital partner in these efforts, and this proposed BUILD Rural Project would be a critical transportation-logistics investment to support current and future business development in the West Plains region.

The proposed Transload Facility supports the initiative to enhance the Airport's role as a logistics hub. By maximizing the cost and geographical efficiencies of multiple modes, minimizing congestion and providing easy access from industrial locations and major labor centers, developing this proposed facility will deliver lower costs and/or improved efficiency to shippers and manufacturers. Additionally, the facility's location would fall within the boundary of the West Plains-Airport Area Public Development Authority (PDA). The Transload facility would complement the PDA's mission to attract new manufacturing and aerospace development to grow jobs in the area.

The Airport's annual economic impact of over \$750 million is testimony to the integral role they play in our regional economy. I would strongly encourage you to give their \$12 million BUILD discretionary grant application careful consideration as it will be an investment in improved modal connectivity while also supporting continued logistics infrastructure essential to the regional economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Mielke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "T" and "M".

Todd Mielke  
Chief Executive Officer

**TOGETHER WE'RE GREATER**

801 W RIVERSIDE | SPOKANE, WA 99201 | GREATERSPOKANE.ORG | ADVANTAGESPOKANE.COM

July 3, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for Spokane International Airport Truck-Rail Transload Facility Project  
(Inland Multimodal Port Facility)**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express Spokane Regional Transportation Council's (SRTC's) support for the BUILD grant application (Rural Category) for the Truck-Rail Transload Facility Project submitted by the Spokane International Airport. The SRTC Board of Directors discussed the BUILD grant application for this project at their June Board meeting and voted unanimously to express support for this project of regional significance. Earlier this year, to further the development of the proposed project, the Airport extended a trunk rail line 5,000 feet onto the Airport's industrial zoned property from the Geiger Spur Railway (Class I Freight Railroad). I'd like to highlight some of the details of the project most significant to the Spokane region:

The Transload Facility Project would increase regional economic competitiveness:

- The project will provide regional economic growth and job creation through both the transload facility operation and aerospace/manufacturing companies building and/or expanding around the airport and newly established Public Development Authority (PDA).
- The proposed facility location within Foreign-Trade Zone No. 224, an Opportunity Zone and PDA would further leverage the economic development potential of this target investment area.

The project improves mobility and the environment:

- The project has the potential to reduce freight traffic on I-90 by increasing movement by rail.
- There will be a reduction in fuel consumption, emissions and congestion off I-90, as more commerce goods will be shipped via railway containers.

We believe strongly in the future of Spokane County as a regional center for aerospace manufacturing. A new Truck-Rail Transload Facility will efficiently, safely, and economically serve the Spokane Airport, the city of Spokane and the entire Spokane region. In order to help our businesses and community thrive, we urge you to provide funding crucial to the construction of the Truck-Rail Transload Facility project.

Sincerely,



Sabrina C. Minshall, AICP  
Executive Director  
Spokane Regional Transportation Council



## Spokane County

OFFICE OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

Josh Kerns, 1<sup>st</sup> District | Mary L. Kuney, 2<sup>nd</sup> District | Al French, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

June 26, 2019

**The Honorable Elaine Chao**  
**Secretary**  
**U.S. Department of Transportation**  
**1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.**  
**Washington, DC 20590**

*RE: Support for Spokane International Airport (SIA) Rail-Truck Transload Facility*

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Rail-Truck Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport BUILD transportation discretionary grant application for \$12 million. This proposed BUILD Rural Project is a crucial transportation-logistics investment to support current and future business development in the West Plains region.

The proposed Transload Facility supports the initiative to enhance the Airport's role as a logistics hub. By maximizing the cost and geographical efficiencies of multiple modes, minimizing congestion and providing easy access from industrial locations and major labor centers, developing this proposed facility will deliver lower costs and/or improved efficiency to shippers and manufacturers. It will also compliment the \$14.3 million BUILD grant investment the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded to Spokane County in December 2018 for the Geiger Boulevard Improvement Project near the proposed facility.

The facility, which is located within the boundary of the West Plains-Airport Area Public Development Authority (PDA), would also align with the PDA's mission to attract new manufacturing and aerospace development to grow jobs in the area.

I support the BUILD discretionary grant be considered for Spokane International Airport as it will be an investment in improved modal connectivity. This grant will financially assist in constructing the \$14 million transload project to support continued logistics infrastructure essential to the regional economy.

Sincerely,  
Board of County Commissioners

  
Mary L. KUNEY, Chair

  
AL FRENCH, Vice Chair

  
JOSH KERNS, Commissioner

# WEST PLAINS/AIRPORT AREA PDA

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7106 W Will D Alton Lane, Suite 103A, Spokane, WA 99224

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July 3, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

## BUILD Grant – Geiger Transload Facility

The West Plains of Spokane Washington is experiencing phenomenal growth as a direct result of public investment in infrastructure. One of the strengths driving this growth is the regions access to multimodal transportation; roadways, runways and rail.

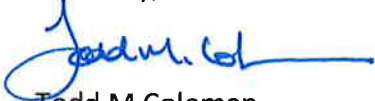
Spokane International Airport has completed an extension of the Geiger Rail Spur in just the past few weeks. We are now seeing opportunities with multiple customers to develop transload business on the new spur. One such company is Mullen USA which intends to operate a 1.3 million sf facility for the manufacturing of electric vehicles and lithium batteries, with the potential to employ over 3,000 employees at full build out. We are also receiving interest to move recyclable materials for reuse, agricultural products from local farms for processing at nearby facilities on the west coast with shipping access and components to support local manufacturing.

Recently, the West Plains Airport Area Public Development Authority Board (PDA) has committed up to \$1 million in match funds toward grants to develop the transload facility. The PDA is a relatively new entity created by a partnership of the City of Spokane, Spokane County and Spokane International Airport with the purpose of supporting and driving economic development in the West Plains of Spokane. The PDA is targeting to expand the strong regional clusters of advanced manufacturing, aerospace and distribution to bring additional jobs to the Spokane region.

Due to the critical nature of the rail mode of transportation, the award of a BUILD grant to Spokane International Airport to fund the transload facility would contribute to the successful expansion of these clusters and the local economy. This critical investment will also greatly assist Mullen and the PDA to complete the lease agreements and to begin construction on the 1.3 million square foot facilities with rail in 2020.

We thank you for your support and we look forward to a strong working relationship with leadership at the US Department of Transportation, Washington State and the Spokane Region.

Sincerely,



Todd M Coleman  
Executive Director  
West Plains Airport Area  
Public Development Authority



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

**Transportation Building**  
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.  
P.O. Box 47300  
Olympia, WA 98504-7300  
360-705-7000  
TTY: 1-800-833-6388  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov)

June 24, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Washington State Department of Transportation is pleased to support Spokane International Airport's 2019 BUILD grant application for the Rail-Truck Transload Facility project.

The proposed project would support the initiative to enhance the Airport's role as a logistics hub and provide the West Plains with a multi-modal freight hub network transfer point to attract large aerospace manufacturers, logistics and warehousing firms, and manufacturing companies. When finished, the new transload facility and associated new track will strengthen the existing infrastructure network enhancing the efficiency of the movement of freight and goods to and from Spokane.

I hope you will give this project serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Millar', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Roger Millar, PE, FASCE, FAICP  
Secretary of Transportation



June 25, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am pleased to extend my support of the Rail-Trunk Transload Facility for the Spokane International Airport BUILD transportation discretionary grant application. As an adjacent landowner and aerospace manufacturer supplying the commercial and defense sectors, I can appreciate the business need for an intermodal freight transfer hub that the transload facility would provide. While our current method of sourcing raw materials or shipping finished products does not include rail, having the additional option available to us, particularly with its immediate adjacency, could provide support to our company in the future.

The proposed Transload Facility enhances the Airport's role as the region's logistics hub, by maximizing the cost and geographical efficiencies of multiple modes, minimizing congestion, and providing easy access from industrial locations and major labor centers. Developing this proposed facility will deliver lower costs, and/or improved efficiency to shippers and manufacturers.

I request that careful examination be given to the Airport's \$12 million BUILD transportation discretionary grant application. The Rail-Truck Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport will be an investment in improved modal connectivity as well as a crucial transportation-logistics investment to support current and future business development in the West Plains region.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Gines  
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer  
Exotic Metals Forming Company, LLC

Exotic Metals Forming Company LLC  
5800 South 226<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kent, Washington USA 98032-1891

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[www.fwaa.org](http://www.fwaa.org)

June 27, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Far West Agribusiness Association is a 60-year-old regional trade association with over 120 business members who are agricultural retailers, wholesalers, and manufacturers who supply fertilizer, crop protection products, equipment and agronomic services.

We are pleased to write this letter of support for the Rail-Truck Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport and their BUILD transportation discretionary grant application for \$12 million. This proposed BUILD Rural Project is an important transportation-logistics investment to support current and future business development to the West Plains region.

Logistics and transportation both play a critical role for Far West Agribusiness Association members. Spread out in rural areas across five states, we rely on the transportation of bulk chemical supplies to support various crop production. In addition, our members and customers use both rail and truck transportation as a way for the harvest commodities to ship their product to customers across the country and abroad. This transload facility would provide a centralized hub that allows our members to realize a cost savings as well as improve efficiency by facilitating both receipt and delivery of goods at one central location.

The proposed Transload Facility also supports the initiative to enhance the airport's role as a logistics hub. The airport's optimal location would help to maximize the cost and geographical efficiencies of multiple modes, minimize congestion and provide easy access from industrial locations and major labor centers.

We support the BUILD discretionary grant consideration for Spokane International Airport as it will be an investment in improved modal connectivity as well as support continued logistics infrastructure essential to the regional economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James F. Fitzgerald".

James F. Fitzgerald  
Executive Director



Inland Empire Distribution Systems, Inc.

July 5, 2019

U. S. Department of Transportation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation

Please allow me to enlighten you with my perspective in regards to the new Rail Transload Facility project submitted by the Spokane International Airport. It is imperative to complete Phase II of this project in order to bring the transload center into operation where the benefit to the economy will begin bearing fruit. Thus garnering a BUILD FY 2019 Grant for \$11.9 million to assist in completing this project is very much appreciated.

My company, IEDS Logistics has been operating in the Spokane area for almost 36 years. Although our core mission is third party logistics, we are the premier transloader for the region serving both the BNSF and UPRR rail carriers. In our business, we only transload manifest railcars where the product from each car is typically different and the railcar types vary from boxcars, centerbeams, flatcars, and gondolas.

However, this new transload facility offers a unique and much needed solution in the Spokane/Coeur d'Alene region. We are located in the largest metropolitan freight hub between Seattle and Minneapolis where by far most of our freight is transported by truck. This new transload facility has the track capacity to possibly handle unit trains (single commodity), container well cars (intermodal), and manifest cars. We currently have a unit train transload center at the BNSF terminal in Spokane but is limited to very special applications. This new transload facility will open opportunities for additional freight by rail thereby removing long haul trucks from the highways (each railcar is the equivalent to 2-4 trucks). For example, container freight to/from the ports of Seattle/Tacoma can be transported to/from Spokane; city refuse can be transported out of Spokane by unit train to a landfill; or perhaps the facility can provide a staging area for aerospace fuselages prior to heading to the manufacturing facility. Rail service across the Cascade Mountains is much more reliable in the winter than truck transport which is how currently we receive our pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, clothing, appliances, electronics, fuel, food and many other necessities.

Installing the infrastructure for this new transload facility is a game changer not only for the companies located within the PDA, but for the entire Spokane region, because it will offer cost effective freight by rail opportunities not currently available on the open market.

Thank you for your consideration and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Ewers  
Principal, Senior VP

[www.ieds.net](http://www.ieds.net)



Mullen Technologies, Inc.

July 3, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Regarding: BUILD Grant – Geiger Transload Facility

Mullen Technologies, Inc. is enthusiastic about the opportunity to locate its manufacturing, assembly and production of full electric automobiles and new battery technology to Spokane, Washington. Our vision for Mullen aligns well with the West Plains Airport Area Public Development Authority's targeted sector of advanced manufacturing. Mullen plans to have 55 jobs in the PDA this year increasing to a projected 863 by 2026. Up to 100 of those jobs will be well paying engineering jobs, hopefully coming from the many engineering programs in the Spokane region.

Our business model initially requires the import of finished components for assembly in our facilities planned for Spokane. To get these components from the seaports to Spokane, it is critical for Mullen to have access to efficient modes of transportation. The PDA site offers access to Interstate I-90, Spokane International Airport and the Geiger Rail Spur that ties to the main line for Burlington Northern Rail. The PDA is currently constructing an extension of the rail spur to accommodate a new trans-load facility and the Mullen opportunity will require a further extension to serve Mullen's logistics network and support of the assembly of the electric sports car.

Due to the critical nature of the rail mode of transportation for Mullen's operations, the award of a BUILD grant to Spokane International Airport to fund the transload facility would contribute to the successful development of an electric vehicle and lithium battery facility. This funding request is supported by the Spokane International Airport, Spokane County, the City of Spokane and the West Plains Airport Area Public Development Authority. This critical investment will greatly assist Mullen and the PDA to complete the lease agreements and to begin construction on the 1.3 million square foot facilities with rail in 2020.

We thank you for your support and we look forward to a strong working relationship with leadership at US Department of Transportation, Washington State and the Spokane Region.

Sincerely,

David Michery  
CEO and Chairman of the Board  
Mullen Technologies, Inc.

July 3, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As an adjacent business and property owner, I appreciate the opportunity to voice my support of Spokane International Airport's BUILD transportation discretionary grant application to construct a Rail-Truck Transload Facility. This multi-modal freight hub network transfer point is a critical step to not only support current business development, but also attract large aerospace manufacturers, logistics and warehousing firms, and manufacturing companies to the West Plains, Airport area.

Seaport Steel is a family-owned business with locations in Seattle and Spokane. The latter is just a mile or so west of the Airport's Terminal complex. We are a preferred steel supplier for a wide range of equipment and machinery manufacturers, the construction industry, and marine. Our extensive inventory, sourcing capability, and production quality allows our customers to rely on Seaport as a key member of their supply chain team. As major supplier of structural steel and fabricated steel products, we know first-hand of the tremendous growth our region has attracted and believe the transload facility will be a key catalyst for continued economic expansion.

The Airport's property and facilities play an integral role in the in our regional economy, and the proposed Transload Facility enhance the Airport's role as a logistics hub. In addition to the proximity of Interstate 90 and the Airport's commercial passenger and cargo freight capabilities that are currently in place, the proposed Transload facility would be a complimentary infrastructure investment to facilitate both the receipt of supplies, as well as the shipment of finished products.

I would appreciate your thoughtful consideration of the Airport's \$12,000,000 BUILD transportation discretionary grant application. The Rail-Truck Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport will be an investment in improved modal connectivity as well as a crucial transportation-logistics investment to support current and future business development in the West Plains region.

Sincerely,



Roy Jourdan  
Seaport Steel





July 1, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this as my letter of support for the Rail-Trunk Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport BUILD transportation discretionary grant application being submitted by Spokane International Airport. The support from this transportation-logistics investment would be crucial to current and future business development in the West Plains region.

By maximizing the cost and geographical efficiencies of multiple modes, minimizing congestion and providing easy access from industrial locations and major labor centers, developing this proposed facility will deliver lower costs and/or improved efficiency to shippers and manufacturers. This would be particularly beneficial for Wemco. We manufacture products such as aerospace tooling and parts and cranes and lifting systems. These products are large in size and require specialized shipping methods. Having the transload facility in close proximity to our fabrication facility would facilitate the process and expedite delivery of finished products to our customers.

The Airport's annual economic impact of over \$750 million is testimony to the integral role they play in regional economy, and the proposed Transload Facility would support the initiative to enhance the Airport's role as a logistics hub. It will help to strengthen the existing regional freight infrastructure network Wemco, Inc. and other area companies realize, with convenient access to Interstate 90 as well as the Airport's commercial and cargo air freight capabilities.

I would strongly encourage you to consider Spokane Airport's \$12 million BUILD discretionary grant application, as it will be an investment in improved modal connectivity while also helping regional economies further develop into a global gateway for domestic and international trade.

Sincerely,

Juston Rouse  
Executive Vice President  
Wemco, Inc.



WASHINGTON EASTERN RAILROAD LLC  
P.O. Box 1544 ♦ OGDEN, UT 84402 ♦ TELEPHONE (801) 621-5311

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July 11, 2019

Todd S Woodard  
Director, Marketing/Public Affairs  
Spokane International Airport

Dear Todd,

I am writing this letter in support of the funding of the Rail-Truck Transload facility near the Spokane International Airport, Spokane, WA under the BUILD Grant program.

The Washington Eastern Railroad began operating the Geiger Spur Branch and the Central Washington Branch of the Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad November 5, 2018. We are focused on safe operations and providing consistent service to our customers. Equally important is increasing business for existing customers, securing new customers on the line as well as establishing transload operations to expand our capabilities. Rail to truck and truck to rail shipments is a proven method of increasing market penetration for railroads that have traditionally moved by truck. This proposed transload facility will greatly enhance the ability to secure new customers and business as the infrastructure will be in place to support this effort. Rail transportation is the preferred method for heavy haul freight and longer distant hauls due to the economics of rail. The last mile for rail shipments is more efficiently handled by short line railroads as they have a lower cost structure and have greater flexibility in providing switching and other terminal services. Class 1 railroads are good at operating their major hub and spoke routes between terminals carrying large volumes of freight to and from large cities and interchange locations.

This grant will also help establish Spokane as a logistics hub.

I am available to answer questions and provide more details if necessary.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Carswell".

Bruce Carswell  
Senior Vice President and COO  
(575) 361-1810





**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

720 - 4th Avenue, Suite 400  
Kirkland, WA 98033-8136

July 11, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

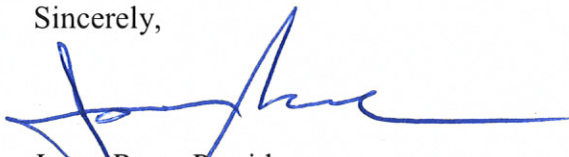
Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support from Waste Management of Washington, Inc. for the future development of the Rail-Trunk Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport. Waste Management's recycling and landfill businesses would greatly benefit from this BUILD Rural Project transportation-logistics investment.

The location of this proposed Transload Facility is approximately five miles from Waste Management's Graham Road Landfill and approximately 65 miles from a new 3,300-acre green field landfill in adjoining Adams County that Waste Management is currently considering developing. The Transload Facility would allow cost effective, efficient importation of waste to both landfills. Additionally, Waste Management owns and operates the SMaRT (Spokane Material and Recycling Technology) Center approximately two miles from the proposed Transload Facility. The SMaRT Center is a regional recycling processing facility. The Transload Facility would allow for the efficient exportation of recyclables to various domestic mills and coastal ports.

As the largest environmental service provider in North America, we strongly encourage you to consider Spokane Airport's \$12 million BUILD discretionary grant application. It will greatly benefit current business interests in the area while promoting additional economic development within the West Plains/Airport Area Public Development Authority.

Sincerely,



Jason Rose, President  
Waste Management of Washington, Inc.



Irv Zakheim  
Chairman | CEO

July 1, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this as my letter of support for the Rail-Trunk Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport BUILD transportation discretionary grant application being submitted by Spokane International Airport. I believe that offering improved modal connectivity will only help our regional economies to further develop into a global gateway for domestic and international trade.

As a business owner who imports our products from Asia, and happens to be located adjacent to the site of the proposed transload facility, this multi-modal option will undoubtedly raise efficiency and affordability for shippers and manufacturers. Adding this physical infrastructure would also provide Zak Designs with a viable alternative to send and receive our products. I also believe the facility would help to minimize congestion for shippers and manufacturers as well as provide easy access from industrial locations and major labor centers.

The Airport's annual economic impact of over \$750 million is testimony to the integral role they play in regional economy, and the proposed Transload Facility would support the initiative to enhance the Airport's role as a logistics hub. It will help to strengthen the existing regional freight infrastructure network Zak Designs and other area companies realize, with convenient access to Interstate 90 as well as the Airport's commercial and cargo air freight capabilities.

I would strongly encourage you to consider Spokane Airport's \$12 million BUILD discretionary grant application. The support from this transportation-logistics investment would be crucial to current and future business development in the West Plains region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Irv Zakheim".

Irv Zakheim  
Chairman & CEO



July 13, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I'm writing this letter in support of the Rail-Trunk Transload Facility at Spokane International Airport BUILD transportation discretionary grant application that's being submitted by the Spokane International Airport.

Avista is the local utility that provides safe, reliable electric and natural gas service to the region, and the Spokane International Airport is one of our major commercial and industrial customers.

Avista has a proud history of serving our region for 130 years. Beyond providing an essential service to our customers, we are an active leader and partner in economic development in the communities throughout our service territory.

There are many reasons why this BUILD grant is so critical to our region. The Spokane International Airport and the West Plains area of Spokane County is the site of not only the current, but also future growth of the region's manufacturing and transportation industries. The recent siting of the Amazon and Caterpillar Distribution Facilities speak to the desirability of this area for large scale distribution.

The West Plains-Spokane International Airport Public Development Authority, recently initiated, is the catalyst to recruit and site additional aerospace, manufacturing and distribution assets within this hub. The proposed Transload Facility, which this grant would support would be significant to the substantial community investment already made and pledged to this effort.

The \$12 million BUILD discretionary grant would be the tipping point to move this economic driver forward and to make this intermodal, logistics and transportation vision a reality to advance not only the greater Spokane region, but also grow the vitality of international economic trade with the Pacific Northwest connectivity to Asia.

Avista stands as a ready partner with the West Plains PDA, The Spokane International Airport and the Spokane region to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dennis Vermillion". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dennis" and last name "Vermillion" clearly distinguishable.

Dennis Vermillion  
President of Avista Utilities and Avista Corp.