

April 25, 2016

Economic Development Administration
Application Review Committee
2401 Constitution Avenue, NW, #7800
Washington DC, 202030

RE: EDA Economic Development Assistance Program, Rail Rehabilitation, Libby, MT

Dear Application Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the FY 2016 Economic Development Assistance Program, Investments for Public Works and Economic Development Facilities, CFDA Number: 11.300, grant application submitted by Lincoln County Port Authority.

Lincoln County Port Authority is requesting funds to construct a rail spur at its Kootenai Business Park, accessing the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) main line. The existing rail spur is no longer functional and considered no longer safe. A preliminary engineering report describing the new design has been completed and has been approved by BNSF.

Lincoln County has experienced significant job losses, and reports unemployment rates nearly twice the national average. Completion of the new rail spur will reassure current businesses in the Kootenai Business Park that economic rail transportation will be available to them, and is considered vital to attract new businesses with good-paying jobs.

I fully support the efforts to revitalize the Kootenai Business Park. This project is expected to attract businesses that provide good-paying jobs to residents of Lincoln County, and is expected to raise the economic outlook of the area.

I trust you will give this grant proposal fair and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator