



## **PENTEC ENVIRONMENTAL**

*Delivering smarter solutions*

September 3, 2009

Mr. Ray LaHood, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of Pentec Environmental, the natural resources arm of Hart Crowser, Inc., I am writing in support of the Port of Everett's pending grant application under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program, sponsored by the Department of Transportation. This grant would partially fund upgrades of transportation infrastructure and environmental management facilities at the Port's South Terminal facility.

As the primary environmental consultant assisting the Port of Everett with permitting of numerous projects, I have been involved in permitting several of the Port's past upgrades of South Terminal beginning in the late 1980s. Since the listing of several local species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), I have directed preparation of several permit applications and biological evaluations supporting upgrades at South Terminal and the adjacent Port facilities. These have included South Terminal berth strengthening, annual fender pile maintenance, and a recent sediment sampling program in preparation for maintenance dredging. As a result of this and other work in the area, I am very familiar with local and regional ecological conditions and their implications for project permitting.

With this background, I am confident that the proposed South Terminal improvements can readily meet all requirements for permitting and that permit acquisition would not delay project implementation, bringing needed jobs to the Everett area. The Port also has at its disposal a number of innovative approaches to apply, if needed, to fully mitigate for any unavoidable adverse effects from the proposed work. This and other recent Port projects would thus result in a continuing trend of improving shoreline habitat conditions critical to the recovery of ESA-listed species.



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Pentec Environmental and Hart Crowser, Inc. enthusiastically support the Port's TIGER grant request and I thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

**PENTEC ENVIRONMENTAL**

**JONATHAN P. HOUGHTON PH.D.**  
Senior Principal

cc: John Mohr, Executive Director, Port of Everett