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## **Montana Chamber of Commerce Statement on Development of Pacific Coast Ports and Terminals**

Montana relies on available and efficient means of transporting its goods to national and international markets to grow its economy. We export grain, manufactured goods, and natural resources to numerous states and countries around the world. When other states step up to the plate to establish or enhance infrastructure that facilitates our ability to participate in interstate and international commerce, we strongly stand in support.

That's why the Montana Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our diverse membership of small to large businesses across all sectors of the state economy, supports efforts to build ports and terminals on the Pacific Coast, in particular the environmental clean-up and redevelopment of the Millennium Bulk Terminals in Longview, Washington.

Montana exports over \$1.5 billion in various goods that include, among others, chemicals, manufactured goods, wood products, agriculture, and natural resources such as petroleum, natural gas, and coal. While Montana sends most of its exports to neighboring Canada, Asia is a major trading partner. That's why we rely heavily on Pacific Coast terminals such as Millennium to get our surplus goods to international markets throughout Asia.

Pacific Coast ports and terminals facilitate economic activity in Montana, and that is the very reason that the Montana Chamber of Commerce supports Millennium and other terminals. It's not only vital to current economic activity in Montana; it's vital to future economic growth and prosperity. Optimizing the flow of goods through national and international markets can only help our state and national economies.