

News and Information from **Oregon International Port of Coos Bay**

For Immediate Release: October 15, 2010

Port of Coos Bay receives \$13,527,133 Tiger II grant for railroad

U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio announced today that the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay is the recipient of a \$13,527,133 grant for rehabilitation of the Coos Bay rail line.

“This is amazing news for the Port, the state, and businesses in Southwest Oregon. I am pleased to have been able to help save the rail line,” Congressman Peter DeFazio said.

The money comes from the Tiger II or Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery discretionary grant program administered through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The 133-mile rail line connects to the national rail system and the funding will allow the Port to upgrade rail, ties, ballast and other track components. The rehabilitation will increase freight rail speed along the line from 10 mph to between 25 and 40 mph.

“This is the piece of the puzzle that will allow the rail line to operate at efficient speeds and allow it to be economically viable,” said Port Commission President David Kronsteiner.

The rail line closed in September 2007 due to unsafe tunnel conditions. The Port of Coos Bay purchased the line in 2009. It is scheduled to re-open in late spring 2011.

Port Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Bishop said, “This is a true milestone for the Port’s long-term effort to stimulate the South Coast economy.”

The Congressman, joined by Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski, made today’s grant announcement at the Amtrak station in Eugene, with the support of representatives of former rail shippers including American Bridge, Roseburg Forest Products and Southport Forest Products. Other officials at today’s announcement included State Rep. Arnie Roblan, Oregon Department of Transportation Director Matt Garrett, Douglas County Commissioner Susan Morgan, who also is chairwoman of the Southwestern Oregon Transportation Workgroup, and Port of Coos Bay Commissioner Caddy McKeown.

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For additional media information, please contact:

Elise Hamner, Communications and Community Affairs Manager
Oregon International Port of Coos Bay
Phone 541 267-7678 / Email ehamner@portofcoosbay.com