



**Trident Seafoods Corp.**  
5303 Shilshole Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98107  
(206) 783-3818  
Fax: (206) 781-7601

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: City of Seattle MERCER WEST TIGER IV application

Monday, March 12, 2012

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Trident Seafoods is pleased to write in support of the City of Seattle's application for the US Department of Transportation TIGER grant. Funding from this grant will be dedicated to the Two-Way Mercer West project.

The Mercer Corridor is a critical transportation connection that carries more than 70,000 people a day. It has been a major traffic bottleneck in the Seattle area, limiting access to the growing South Lake Union area, the Seattle waterfront, the Seattle Center, and major federal and state highways. This project is vital because it supports four key sectors of the regional economy including: information technology, biotechnology, travel and tourism, and international trade.

It is critical that the corridor be completed. The final phase of the project is vital to the maritime industrial sector and the North Pacific fishing fleets based in Seattle, which supports for Trident Seafoods over 600 direct family wage jobs. Our U.S. central distribution center is located in the terminus of the project at Pier91 in Seattle, which ships more than 1 million pounds of frozen food to our customers weekly.

In addition to the needs of Trident Seafoods, the Mercer West project is critical to the success of the vitality of the central business core of Seattle, including the Seattle Center, the Port of Seattle, and neighborhoods in northwest Seattle. The Mercer Corridor is a vital part of the SR99 Bored Tunnel replacing the Alaskan Way Viaduct. All the planning around the downtown tunnel assumed that Mercer West would move forward. Federal money already spent on these projects would be wasted if this project is not completed.

An independent Mercer Corridor Stakeholder Committee comprised of 42 individuals and businesses met 15 times and reached consensus supporting the Mercer West project, and concluded that a complete Mercer corridor was the only solution that would achieve the goals for economic growth of all stakeholders.

The Alaskan Way Viaduct Stakeholders Advisory Committee also held dozens of public meetings and supported Mercer West as an integral part of the downtown tunnel project. Without the Mercer West project, traffic will gridlock for years during construction, causing havoc to the local economy.

Recognizing how vital the project is to the city, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is excavating for the widening of Mercer Street and providing the undergrounding of transmission lines that serve the entire South Lake Union neighborhood.

If you have any questions concerning the necessity of the project, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald D. Hildebrandt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ronald D. Hildebrandt  
Chief Logistics Officer

**cc:**

Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Maria Cantwell  
Governor Christine Gregoire  
Congressman Jim McDermott  
Mayor Mike McGinn, Seattle