



# International Union of Operating Engineers/Local 370

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Affiliated with  
AFL-CIO

Jurisdiction  
Eastern Washington  
And  
State of Idaho

CURT KOEGEN  
Business Manager

September 2, 2009



Senator Patty Murray  
U.S. Senate  
173 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray,

I, along with other members of the Operating Engineers Local 370, were active participants with the Inland Northwest AGC at the recent ribbon cutting ceremony to open the first drivable section of the US 395 North Spokane Corridor. During the ceremony, it was announced that the next phase of the project has been submitted for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. These funds would complete the southbound lanes from Farwell to Freya. Should we be successful, this would allow WSDOT to open the entire 5.7 mile section from Freya to Wandermere in 2011. This is the only Eastern Washington project to be submitted and we are excited about what these funds could mean to our community in job creation, economic vitality and increased freight mobility. It is estimated that the \$35 million requested for construction of this "shovel-ready" project would create or save over 500 jobs and generate nearly \$70 million in economic activity.

**We are asking for your support in helping to ensure that this project is funded by the TIGER grants.**

Spokane has watched, for decades, this project slowly gaining momentum with assistance from your office, the State of Washington, and various other members of Congress. The enthusiasm from this recent accomplishment was the spring board for our *US 395 North Spokane Corridor - Keep Spokane Moving - Let's Finish What We Started* campaign.

We look forward to your continued support and advocacy for our number one regional transportation project. When finished, the Corridor will be an asset that benefits all modes of transportation and will create regional, State, national and international economic development opportunities, as well as improving the quality of life for those who live and visit our area.

If there is anything we can do to help support this vital transportation project, we would be more than happy to assist.

Sincerely,

Curt Koegen

Business Manager

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