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For Release: Immediate
Date: Monday, October 15, 2007

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Gov. Gregoire Announces Investments to Boost Job and Economic Growth

OLYMPIA – Governor Chris Gregoire today announced \$2,810,000 in public investments to create new jobs and boost economic growth across Washington.

“In today’s global economy, infrastructure is the foundation for economic growth and is especially critical to many rural communities,” said Governor Gregoire. “These loans provide vital support for these projects, which will create new family-wage jobs and help grow the local economy in each of these counties.”

In **Cowlitz County**, the Washington Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) approved a \$1,000,000 loan to assist the Port of Longview with engineering and construction costs for a new dock. The dock will support the new facility of Export Grain Terminal Development, LLC, and an estimated 50 new full-time jobs at wages exceeding the average annual Cowlitz County wage. Total public support for the development is \$10,423,639.

In **Kittitas County**, CERB approved \$1,000,000 in loan and grant financing to help the Ellensburg Business Development Authority construct a 15,000 square foot light industrial building and undergo site improvements, which will provide space for approximately 50 to 75 future employees. Total public support for the development is \$1,250,000.

In **Yakima County**, CERB approved \$810,000 in loan and grant financing to assist the Port of Sunnyside in the construction of infrastructure improvements to the Port’s Edison Avenue Industrial Park. The Port projects 58 full-time jobs will be created by future business developments. Total public support for the development is \$1,785,000.

“The CERB Program is designed to respond to emergent business development needs for public infrastructure and provide long-range feasibility planning to help communities plan for future business development,” said Tom Trulove, CERB Chair.

“Our role is to be responsive to local needs by making timely and smart investment decisions,” said Juli Wilkerson, Director of the State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED). “The CERB Board has a proven track record for being a good steward of public money and advocate for local communities.”

The release of CERB funds to these projects is contingent upon each applicant completing specific pre-contract requirements, such as finalizing other funding sources and obtaining the necessary permits.

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