

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PORT OF WALLA WALLA HELPS SECURE DONATION TO LOCAL FOOD BANK**

Port of Walla Walla Commission President, Dr. Fred Bennett, announced today Procter & Gamble Company has made a \$5,000 donation to the Blue Mountain Action Council food bank on behalf of the Port of Walla Walla.

Last year, the Port of Walla Walla was named a finalist along with a site in Oregon and Utah for a \$300 million Procter & Gamble paper-product manufacturing plant that would create 300 new family-wage jobs. While Procter & Gamble selected Box Elder County, Utah for the new plant, they were impressed by the Port's efforts and have decided to make a donation to a local charity on behalf of the Port.

Joe Tomon, a project leader for the Procter & Gamble site selection team, said "The Port put forth a substantial amount of time and effort in its recruitment of the Procter & Gamble plant. We were impressed by the Port Commission and staff's professionalism and commitment in responding to dozens of information requests. We wanted to make a donation recognizing the Port's efforts. They are an effective economic development organization."

Port Commissioner Bennett, said "The Blue Mountain Action Council food bank is very well managed and is deserving of the donation."

Blue Mountain Action Council Executive Director, Steve Moss, said "The donation will be earmarked as part of fund raising efforts to purchase a much needed refrigeration truck in order to transport more fresh and frozen food items."

The Port of Walla Walla was founded in 1952 and is the lead economic development agency for Walla Walla County. The Port's primary mission is the creation and retention of family wage jobs. The Port is governed by three elected Commissioners Dr. Fred Bennett, Mike Fredrickson and Paul Schneidmiller. In 2006, the Port of Walla Walla was named Port of the Year by the Washington Public Ports Association for its leadership role in enhancing the economic vitality of southeastern Washington.

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