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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP TO REINTRODUCE CONTAINER SHIPPING TO THE COLUMBIA-SNAKE RIVER SYSTEM

Ending 15-Year Hiatus to Strengthen Regional Commerce and Global Connectivity

LEWISTON, ID – April 27, 2026 – The Port of Lewiston and Oregon Container Terminal (OCT) are pleased to announce a strategic initiative to bring container shipping services back to the Inland Northwest. This milestone restores a vital transportation link that has been missing for over a decade and a half.

Historical Context: Over fifteen years ago, container movement through the Port of Lewiston ceased, significantly impacting the region's ability to move commerce efficiently. This absence forced local industries, agricultural producers, and manufacturers to rely heavily on road and rail, often resulting in increased costs and logistical bottlenecks. Today's announcement signals a return to diversified, cost-effective distribution alternatives.

"It is important at all levels to support this initiative by providing distribution alternatives business is supported. By reintroducing these services, we are strengthening our regional economy and providing the necessary infrastructure for our local producers to thrive."

— Joe Gish, Nez Perce County Commissioner

Under the management of Harbor Industrial Services at Portland's Terminal 6, OCT is working closely with the Port of Lewiston to provide reliable, transpacific liner services. This partnership offers a "middle-mile" solution that reduces the carbon footprint and lowers transit times for goods heading to international markets.

"For fifteen years, our regional industries have been operating without a critical logistical tool. We are tearing down that barrier. By partnering with OCT, we are providing local businesses with the shipping efficiency they have been missing for far too long."

— Scott Corbit, General Manager, Port of Lewiston

"Oregon Container Terminal is committed to servicing the gateway for the Pacific Northwest. Restoring this connection allows us to offer agricultural and manufacturing partners a faster, more direct path to global markets than they've had in a generation."

— Tim McCarthy, President, Oregon Container Terminal

"This is a milestone for our community's economic resilience. After fifteen years, we are finally reclaiming our status as a premier intermodal hub. This means lower overhead for our local companies and more robust growth for the City of Lewiston, Nez Perce County and the region."

— Mayor Johnson, City of Lewiston

Interested parties are invited to attend an informational event tomorrow, April 28, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Courtyard by Marriott in Lewiston to learn more about the partnership and the future of regional waterway commerce.

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About Oregon Container Terminal (OCT)

Formerly Terminal 6, OCT is under commercial management by Harbor Industrial Services. It provides 200 acres of on-dock storage, dual-rail service, and extensive reefer capacity to facilitate efficient global trade.

About Port of Lewiston

The most inland port on the West Coast, the Port of Lewiston is an economic development district and intermodal hub serving Nez Perce County and the Inland Northwest.

About Valley Vision EDC

VVEDC is a bi-state economic development organization servicing Lewiston, ID and Clarkston, WA for 25 years, focused on attracting and expanding wealth-generators in the region.