



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For first time ever, the Mount Vernon – Anacortes Metropolitan Area Surpasses \$1 Billion in Merchandise Exports in 2011

MOUNT VERNON – Despite being in the midst of the deepest recession since the Great Depression, for the first time in history, the Mount Vernon – Anacortes Metropolitan Area surpassed \$1 Billion in merchandise exports, according to recently released data for 2011 by the United States Department of Commerce.

“This success in your area’s export story warrants recognition and I congratulate you,” said Francisco Sanchez, Under Secretary for International Trade, in a recent letter to Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau.

“We achieved this important milestone thanks to the strength of our manufacturing, agriculture and service sectors,” commented Mayor Boudreau. “Our economic growth during this challenging time is just another indicator of why Mount Vernon is the right choice for business.”

Merchandise shipments exceeded \$1.5 billion in 2011. This is up \$908 million (155.4%) from the \$585 million in merchandise exported in 2010. The growth is even more dramatic from the first year statistics were tabulated in 2005. Seven years ago, only \$117 million in merchandise was exported.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, The Mount Vernon area ranks among the leading major metropolitan area exporters in petroleum products, wood products, transportation equipment, crop production, and fishing and hunting. Overall, the Mount Vernon metropolitan area accounted for 2.7% of Washington’s total merchandise exports in 2011.

Mayor Boudreau said the Mount Vernon Community and Economic Development Department actively partners with the local chamber, Economic Development Association of Skagit County and Washington State Department of Commerce to assist with the growth of area businesses.

“We have successfully streamlined review and permitting, reducing approval timeframes in order to expedite quality developments,” commented Jana Hanson, Director of the Community and Economic Development Department.

“As you continue your outreach efforts with the business community, I would like to ask for your help in educating small businesses about the tremendous opportunities that exist when it comes to exporting and the federal resources available,” said Under Secretary Sanchez. “I look forward to partnering with you on this effort.”

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