

THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR.  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

MICHAEL E. BUSCH  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE HOUSE

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

July 1, 2009

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senate  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-2002

Dear Senator Cardin:

We write to express our support for the National Gateway initiative, and to urge you to work to secure federal funding for the project in next year's surface transportation authorizing legislation.

National Gateway is a public-private partnership that would create a highly efficient freight transportation link between Mid-Atlantic ports and the Midwest by improving the flow of rail traffic between these two regions. A cooperative effort between states, local governments, businesses and economic development organizations, the National Gateway initiative consists of over \$700 million in intermodal terminal and rail infrastructure projects to be divided between the public and private sectors.

This investment could deliver up to \$6.1 billion worth of public benefits nationally within ten years. The private sector would fund 50% of the project, and a multi-state effort is being undertaken to secure \$194 million in federal transportation funds in the upcoming reauthorization bill.

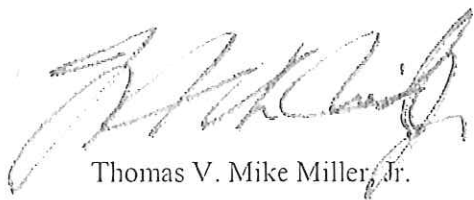
State governments along the route would provide the remaining \$193 million in matching funds based on their share of the clearance work in their respective states. The State of Maryland has committed to provide up to \$75 million for a new intermodal facility in the Baltimore-Washington region as part of the National Gateway.

The National Gateway would provide environmental, economic development and congestion relief benefits across a six-state area, including substantial benefits that would accrue specifically to Maryland. The National Gateway delivers over \$850 million of public benefits to Maryland by:

- Reducing CO2 emissions by over 200,000 tons
- Expanding rail market access potential for the State by 114 percent
- Enhancing rail transportation infrastructure to attract new business and jobs
- Reducing the State's highway congestion by shifting freight from over 2 million trucks from the highway to the railway, saving over \$33 million in highway maintenance costs
- Saving over \$350 million in logistics costs for the State

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.



Michael E. Busch