



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
**HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
RICHMOND

**JOSEPH F. BOUCHARD**

POST OFFICE BOX 68726  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23471

EIGHTY-THIRD DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
FINANCE  
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

September 3, 2009

The Honorable Mark Warner  
459A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

I strongly support federal funding for the National Gateway initiative. The National Gateway is a public-private partnership that would create a highly efficient freight transportation link between the Port of Virginia and the Midwest. This project is being developed by a coalition of states, local governments, businesses and economic development organizations. It consists of over \$800 million in intermodal terminal and rail infrastructure and when complete will deliver \$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 \$258 million in federal transportation funds. State governments along the route would provide the balance in matching funds based on their share of the clearance work in their respective states, with \$80 million having been committed to date. The Commonwealth of Virginia has incorporated the National Gateway in its statewide rail plan and has already committed funding to the initiative, including \$24 million for the critical Virginia Avenue Tunnel project.

I ask your support for securing federal transportation funds for the National Gateway from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant program, the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill, or general appropriations.

The National Gateway will provide environmental, economic development and congestion relief benefits across a six-state area, including Virginia. Thank you for considering this important and beneficial project that will make a significant contribution to the development of Virginia's transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Bouchard".

Joseph F. Bouchard