

August 4, 2009

Hon. Ray LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my strong support of 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 Mid-Atlantic ports and the Midwest by improving the flow of rail traffic between these two regions. This project is being developed by a coalition of states, local governments, businesses and economic development organizations.

The National Gateway initiative consists of over \$700 million in intermodal terminal and rail infrastructure projects that would be divided between the public and private sectors. This investment could deliver over \$6 billion worth of public benefits nationally over the next ten years.

This is truly a public-private partnership. The private sector would fund 50 percent of the project. Several states, including Virginia, are seeking \$194 million in federal transportation funds. State governments along the route would provide \$193 million in matching funds based on their share of the clearance work in their respective states. Virginia has incorporated the National Gateway freight project in its statewide rail plan and has already committed its share of funding to the initiative, including \$24 million for the critical Virginia Avenue Tunnel project.

The National Gateway initiative has a very high rate of return. It provides environmental, economic development and congestion relief benefits across a six-state area, including substantial benefits that would accrue specifically to Virginia. The National Gateway delivers over \$1.2 billion of public benefits to Virginia by:

- Reducing CO2 emissions by over 650,000 tons
- Expanding rail market access potential for the Commonwealth by 141 percent
- Enhancing rail transportation infrastructure to attract new business and jobs
- Reducing the State's highway congestion by shifting freight from nearly 5 million trucks to the railway, saving over \$106 million in highway maintenance costs
- Saving over \$690 million in logistics costs for the State

In this time of economic uncertainty, we should take full advantage of these public-private investments in infrastructure to stimulate our economy and deliver high-paying jobs. Thank you for your consideration of this important and beneficial project.

Regards,

Mark D. Sickles

August 4, 2009

Congressman James P. Moran
2239 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Moran:

I am writing to express my strong support of 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 Mid-Atlantic ports and the Midwest by improving the flow of rail traffic between these two regions. This project is being developed by a coalition of states, local governments, businesses and economic development organizations.

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Senator James Webb
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Webb:

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

Dear Senator Warner:

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Congressman James Oberstar
2365 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Oberstar:

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Congressman John Mica
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Mica:

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