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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3504

### APPROPRIATIONS

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY

### ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT,  
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND  
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

August 20, 2009

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write in support of the grant application submitted by National Gateway on behalf of the state of Ohio and five other states and the District of Columbia for funding in the 'Grants for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Program' (TIGER Discretionary Grants). The current economic downturn has had devastating effects on communities in my home state of Ohio, and it is important for the U.S. Department of Transportation to leverage the funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to maximize public benefits.

The National Gateway project is supported by a large coalition of public and private sector leaders; including the six governors of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina; over two dozen members of Congress; three port authorities; two Ohio metropolitan planning organizations; and a large group of global shippers, ocean carriers, business organizations and environmental groups. I understand this project also has nearly \$550 million in state and private sector funds committed to date, allowing National Gateway to take immediate advantage of TIGER funds to create jobs and stimulate the economy throughout the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions, including Ohio.

The National Gateway is a public-private partnership that consists of over \$800 million in rail infrastructure and intermodal terminal projects along three major corridors – I-95/I-81 between North Carolina and Maryland; I-70/I-76 between Washington, D.C. and Northwest Ohio; and the I-40/Carolina Corridor between Charlotte and Wilmington. When complete, the initiative will create a highly efficient freight transportation link between three Mid-Atlantic ports (Baltimore, Norfolk and Wilmington) and the Midwest by improving the flow of goods between these two *regions* and across the nation.

This project will also improve the flow of intermodal container traffic from major ports on the West Coast to major consumption markets in the East by taking advantage of a major new terminal that CSX and its affiliates are constructing in Northwest Ohio. This state-of-the-art terminal will enable rail traffic to flow more efficiently through Chicago, reducing transit time by 24 to 48 hours, and complement other terminals being constructed or expanded as part of this initiative in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. In Ohio alone, the National Gateway project will bring new economic opportunities that will help deliver nearly \$700 million in public benefits and create more than 20,000 jobs.

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The National Gateway project is a prime example of how the public and private sectors can work together to leverage scarce economic resources and address our nation's most pressing economic and freight transportation challenges. Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please have your staff contact my grants coordinator, Linda Greenwood at (419) 259-3895. Thank you.

Sincerely,



George V. Voinovich  
United States Senator