

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 1, 2009

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

It is my understanding that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has submitted a TIGER Grant Application for the National Gateway through the U.S. Department of Transportation. The purpose of this letter is to urge you to give full and fair consideration to this proposal.

I have been informed that the National Gateway would consist of rail infrastructure spanning three major corridors in the U.S.- between North Carolina and Maryland; between Washington, DC and Northwest Ohio; and between Charlotte and Wilmington, North Carolina. It is my understanding that the project would also create a link between mid-Atlantic ports and the Midwest and would increase the flow of traffic from the West Coast to the East by utilizing a new terminal being built in Northwest Ohio by CSX and its affiliates. I understand that the National Gateway will improve the flow of freight by rail and enhance the ability of Pennsylvania and the entire country to deliver goods to domestic and international markets. I have been advised that the National Gateway, a public-private partnership, is supported by the governors of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina and over two dozen members of Congress, as well as by various port authorities, metropolitan planning organizations, global shippers, business organizations, and environmental groups.

Thank you in advance for the consideration of my views. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (215) 405-9660.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator