



We take it personally

December 10, 2009

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

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am Michael Checchi, Director, Operations and Logistics, for OOCL (USA) Inc., an ocean carrier and transportation logistics company. OOCL transports over 500,000 container-loads of goods intermodally on U. S. freight railroads each year.

Intermodal rail transportation represents a significant portion of OOCL's annual transportation spending. I am writing to express my strong support for \$258 million in funding requested for the National Gateway project through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program.

The National Gateway will create a state-of-the-art rail corridor between the Mid-Atlantic's ocean ports and the US Midwest's manufacturing centers through use of double-stack container trains. By providing the necessary capacity, facilities and equipment for highly-efficient rail service, the National Gateway allows us to serve our customers in the most efficient and cost-effective way.

The National Gateway project benefits include conversion of an estimated 14 billion highway miles to rail service, reducing Carbon Dioxide emissions by over 20 million tons and reducing fuel consumption by nearly two billion gallons.

The National Gateway project is also expected to create thousands of new jobs and help the US compete for more high-value jobs by expanding our nation's ability to deliver manufactured goods to and from world markets.

The importance of east coast ports will increase over the next 20 years. We believe the National Gateway will significantly enhance our ability to provide premier transport services to our customers and urge you to support this important infrastructure development project.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Checchi".

Michael Checchi
Director, Operations & Logistics