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Harford County
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County Executive

Howard County
Ken Ulman
County Executive

Maryland Department of
Transportation
Beverley Swaim-Staley
Acting Secretary

Maryland Department of the
Environment
Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Maryland Department of Planning
Richard E. Hall
Secretary

September 8, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Thank you for the opportunity to demonstrate our support of a unified approach for a grant proposal under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The grant proposal represents a multi-state commitment to critical investments in the freight rail system supporting our economy.

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), the metropolitan planning organization for the Baltimore region, recognized the importance of an efficient freight rail system in supporting the economies of both the Baltimore metropolitan area and the nation as a whole. Therefore, the BRTB is in strong support of the CSX National Gateway Initiative grant application pursuant to the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary grant program. The purpose of the initiative is to create a double-stack rail network along key corridors to improve the flow of freight between the Mid-Atlantic and the Midwest.

We look forward to working with CSX and US DOT to achieve the goals outlined in the proposal.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Johnson, Empowered Chair
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board

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cc: BRTB Members