

August 30, 2009

The Honorable Mark Warner
The United States Senate
B40C Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

I am writing to encourage you to support use of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant program, the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill and general appropriations to help make The National Gateway project a reality. The project will connect the Port of Hampton Roads with key Midwest markets such as Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh and Columbus, Ohio. The enhanced movement of freight out of the Hampton Roads ports is vital to the economy of the Commonwealth.

Moreover, Virginia will benefit from the creation of a double stack rail network by taking a large number of trucks off our overcrowded highways and reducing air pollution. It is expected that 3.5 million trucks will be diverted from the Virginia highways to the rail network over a ten-year period. The reduced number of trucks will also help reduce maintenance costs (one study estimates the cost savings to be \$105 million over 10 years).

I hope you will do what you can to assist this worthwhile project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Brink