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North Carolina General Assembly  
House of Representatives

COMMITTEES:

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MENTAL HEALTH REFORM  
RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS  
OF THE HOUSE  
TRANSPORTATION, VICE CHAIR  
WAYS AND MEANS

June 25, 2009

The Honorable Richard Burr  
United States Senate  
217 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Kay R. Hagan  
United States Senate  
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senators Burr and Hagan:

I am writing to express my strong support for the National Gateway initiative and to urge you to join in a multi-state effort to secure federal funding for the project in the upcoming surface transportation authorizing legislation. A \$700 million project, the National Gateway is a public-private partnership that would create a highly efficient freight transportation link between Mid-Atlantic ports and the Midwest by improving the flow of rail traffic between these two regions. This project is being developed by CSX Transportation in cooperation with a coalition of states, local governments and economic development organizations.

This investment delivers \$6.1 billion worth of public benefits nationally within ten years. CSX is proposing to fund 50% of the project and a multi-state effort is being undertaken to secure \$194 million in federal transportation funds. State governments along the route would provide the remaining \$193 million in matching funds based on their share of the clearance work in their respective states.

The National Gateway would provide economic development, congestion relief, and environmental benefits across a six-state area, including substantial benefits that would accrue specifically to North Carolina. The National Gateway delivers over \$320 million of public benefits to North Carolina by reducing over 240,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, enhancing rail transportation infrastructure, expanding CSX's intermodal terminal in Charlotte, reducing the state's highway congestion by shifting freight from over one million trucks from the highway to the railway, and saving over \$40 million in highway maintenance costs



Senators Richard Burr and Kay Hagan

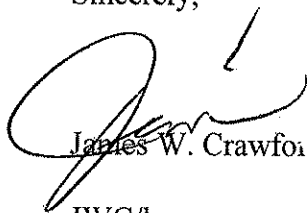
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In this time of economic uncertainty, we must take full advantage of these public-private investments in infrastructure to stimulate our economy and deliver high-paying jobs. The State of North Carolina (NCDOT and the NC Ports Authority) has committed to provide half (\$100,000) of the cost of clearance work between Wilmington and Charlotte. However, clearing obstructions in other states along this corridor is critical for the Port of Wilmington to grow service. The double-stack clearances and density that the National Gateway allows will drastically expand North Carolina and the Port of Wilmington's market access potential. Therefore, I respectfully request your assistance in securing the federal transportation funds in the upcoming surface transportation authorization bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this important and beneficial project. I look forward to working with you to ensure the development of North Carolina's transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,



James W. Crawford, Jr.

JWC/lw