

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802
specter.senate.gov

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
APPROPRIATIONS
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
AGING

September 14, 2009

Heideh Shahmoradi
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

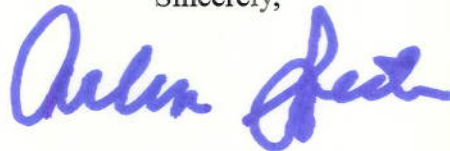
Dear Ms. Shahmoradi,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is my understanding the National Gateway has submitted an application for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant. I am told that this project would support rail infrastructure spanning three major corridors throughout the Midwest and East Coast of the United States.

I have been advised that this is a private-public partnership that consists of over \$800 million in rail infrastructure and intermodal terminal projects along these three major corridors. I am told that Pennsylvania, along with the entire country, will benefit from the improved flow of freight by rail, which will allow the delivery of goods to domestic and international markets. I understand that the utilization of a new terminal being built in Northwest Ohio by CSX and its affiliates would create a link between mid-Atlantic ports and the midwest, increasing the flow of traffic from the West Coast to the East. Finally, I am informed that this project has the support of six governors from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina.

As it appears the National Gateway would have a huge economic impact and improve transportation infrastructure in these areas, I urge you to give their application your full and fair consideration for funding approval. Please direct your reply to my Director of Special Projects, Robert Jones, at 711 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

AS/rj