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December 16, 2009

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

As the nation turns its attention to building sustainable long term job growth through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act programs, I am taking this opportunity to urge you to support an application for funding the Crescent Corridor Intermodal Freight Project.

I believe this project is an effective and efficient use of public and private funds. It is a bold example of our nation's potential that exists if we set our sights on a more balanced approach to funding our nation's transportation needs. As you are aware, existing transportation resources are proving inadequate. This project will provide a new intermodal corridor with the ultimate potential to remove over 1 million trucks a year from our already strained national interstate highway system in the South and Northeast. Most importantly, these improvements can be completed within an 18 month timeframe.

The Crescent Corridor Intermodal Freight Project would greatly benefit multiple states, by improving freight intermodal service quality along multiple routes. I-20, I-40, I-59, I-75, I-85, and I-81 will benefit, as well as other major roadways. Additionally, this project envisions building new highway to rail intermodal container transfer facilities in multiple locations, which initially include Birmingham, AL; Memphis, TN; and Greencastle, PA. Not to mention, other select terminal expansions and a future terminal in Eastern TN are anticipated.

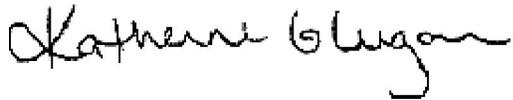
Some of these intermodal facilities will offer the potential for adjacent development of integrated logistics sites. The concept of distribution, warehousing and light manufacturing near intermodal facilities has been shown to reduce transportation costs, make supply chains much more efficient, and create substantial numbers of new jobs and economic benefit for the communities that host these sites.

RILA finds the use of rail intermodal to be an efficient and environmentally friendly way to serve customers by providing safe, efficient, and marketable transportation services. The Crescent Corridor Intermodal Freight Project will improve a key transportation artery for the United States, and allow us to better serve our customers and their communities.

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I encourage you to support this project out of the \$1.5 Billion Discretionary Grant Program at the U.S. Department of Transportation. This project and its associated terminals will deliver the proper flexibility to our surface transportation programs so that the right solutions to our future transportation needs can be implemented in the South and Northeast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Lugar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Katherine Lugar
Executive Vice President, Public Affairs