

February 10, 2009

Mr. Joseph P. Clary
Director
Illinois Department of Transportation
Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation
300 West Adams St.
Chicago Illinois 60606

RECEIVED
FEB 11 2009

Illinois Dept. of Transportation
Division of Public and
Intermodal Transportation

Dear Mr. Clary:

DuPage County is home to over 130 major corporations, including six Fortune 1000 company headquarters, two national laboratories, and 16 colleges and universities. Our resident population is nearing one million and we have more than 750,000 jobs within the county. DuPage is historically one of the fastest growing regions in northeastern Illinois because of the quality of life we offer residents and resident companies; the emphasis we place on education, culture, environmental preservation, and economic development, as well as our proximity to one of the world's busiest airports and the largest railroad hub in the nation.

With excellent air connections to nearly every part of the world and freight rail connections to every part of the United States, DuPage County is well positioned to lead our nation in business development. As the production and shipping of goods becomes more freight that is global, rail emerges as a viable economic and environmental solution to the increased cost of transportation. Modernizing Chicago's freight rail system is crucial to our ability to maintain our competitive edge with other communities that court new companies and corporate headquarter relocations.

We are pleased that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is taking a major step towards modernizing its freight and passenger rail infrastructure through CREATE, a program founded by a public-private partnership of federal, state, and local government agencies, along with the national railroads to build new track; make connection and control system improvements; and construct grade separations.

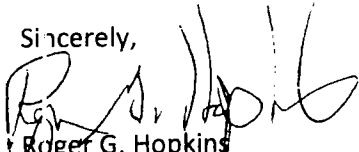
Of the seventy-eight CREATE projects, thirty-nine are expected to be in the design or construction phase by the end of this year. However, more funds are needed. Without additional appropriations from the US Congress and the Illinois Legislature, the CREATE

Mr. Joseph P. Clary
February 10, 2009
Illinois Route 38 and Union Pacific West Line
Page 2

projects identified over five years ago may not be completed. If northeastern Illinois cannot eliminate its freight rail congestion, where it can take freight longer to move in and through Chicago than it takes to get from Long Beach, CA, we may impact our ability to retain and attract business and grow jobs in the region.

Choose DuPage is an advocate for infrastructure improvements that can stimulate the economy and expand employment. Two such projects are the need for grade separation at Illinois Route 38 and the Union Pacific West line near the DuPage National Technology in West Chicago; and the incorporation of grade separation priorities for the additional highway crossings on the former Elgin Joliet & Eastern railroad line that the Canadian National Railway Corporation will begin to use. We are a strong advocate for CREATE and infrastructure improvements throughout the region that will modernize our aging freight rail infrastructure and lessen shipping delays. We support CREATE and its efforts to decrease the time and cost of moving goods across America and to points beyond.

Sincerely,



Roger G. Hopkins
President & CEO