



**Illinois
Corn
Growers
Association**

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Illinois Corn Growers Support CREATE

Illinois Corn Growers Association has been a champion of improving the nation's aging transportation infrastructure, and in the last 15 years has specifically targeted the needed upgrades of our aging lock and dam system on the Upper Mississippi River and more recently the Chicago Region Environmental & Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program.

Our hope is to shine a much needed light on the rail efficiency issue and specifically the need to alleviate bottleneck problems in the Chicagoland area that affect the entire nation. ICGA believes the logistical issues we are facing today are just the beginning if you do not act in a timely and meaningful way.

Anticipated growth in volumes of exports and new imports from China, Southeast Asia and emerging India suggest that our current problems will only escalate if left unaddressed.

High quality, efficient rail transportation provides much needed competition against other modes of transport and allows Illinois industry to compete domestically and abroad on a host of Ag and non-agriculture related products. Illinois needs the positive synergy that river, rail and road transportation can provide even in market where they are not in direct competition.

Additionally, CREATE will sustain 17,000 jobs in the next 20 years, while the railroad employs 18,000 statewide. CREATE helps assure Illinois will continue to account for half of the corn shipments to West Texas, and assure Illinois continues to efficiently service one quarter of the corn shipments to Mexico.

ICGA is committed to working to secure the needed funding and incentives needed for not only upgrading but expanding rail infrastructure. Given the potential productive capacity for corn linked to biotech advances we need to move swiftly and authoritatively to invest in our future success.

Rob Elliott
ICGA President