



ILLINOIS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

February 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce and our Infrastructure Council has been a champion of the Chicago Region Environmental & Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program since its inception. This project of national significance typifies the type of infrastructure investment that government should fund. In partnership with the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the rail industry; the federal government can build an improved network that will improve freight and passenger rail for the good of the nation.

CREATE will provide 2700 good construction jobs and help sustain 17,000 rail industry jobs over decades. It will encourage countless employers to maintain their investment in local jobs dependant upon rail. It will enhance the ability of METRA to serve the region and Amtrak to serve the nation. And lives will be saved by the improved grade crossings at 25 different locations.

The Chicago Region rail infrastructure makes Illinois is the rail transportation hub of the country and the one point where all of the major railroads interconnect. This modest investment in the Chicago Region will have a positive impact on countless businesses across the nation who depend on fast, efficient and competitive rail. These are businesses that provide jobs nationwide. Local, state, and federal government along with unprecedented cooperation of private enterprise deserve the funding support to complete this program.

The Illinois Chamber Infrastructure Council is proud to be a place where business, labor and government can come together for the larger good. The CREATE program typifies this cooperation. CREATE is worthy of support of by all and should be funded fully with federal, state, local and private investment.

Please urge your members of the Federal Delegation and the General Assembly to join the City of Chicago and the Rail Industry to support CREATE.

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