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May 30, 2009

Joseph P. Clary
Illinois Department of Transportation
Division of Public & Intermodal Transportation
J.R. Thompson Center, Suite 6-600
100 West Randolph
Chicago, IL 60601
joseph.clary@illinois.gov

Dear Mr. Clary,

Michigan Technological University strongly supports development of a sustainable transportation network in North America. The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program (CREATE) advances the goals of sustainable transportation and therefore Michigan Tech strongly supports this exciting program. CREATE is a project of regional and national significance and a first-of-its-kind partnership between the State of Illinois, City of Chicago, Metra, Amtrak, Association of American Railroads, and the U.S. DOT. The CREATE program addresses 78 critically needed rail and highway infrastructure improvements in Northeast Illinois and targets to reduce the delays in rail freight, including at grade crossings. These delays threaten the economic vitality of the region, reduce farmers' profit, lead to increased traffic congestion on roadways, generate unnecessary levels of air pollution, create safety concerns, and adversely affect the reliability and speed of rail passenger service. With the funding support of its government and private sector partners, CREATE will alleviate these problems.

In addition to the future benefits CREATE will provide the public, the program has already positively benefited Michigan Tech. Students from Michigan Tech's Rail Transportation Program have visited CREATE several times and the program leaders have introduced them to the intricacies and complexities of CREATE and rail transportation in Chicago area. CREATE contributions to our rail education program have greatly advanced our students' understanding of rail transportation and allowed students to be better prepared to address the challenges they will face as the next generation of transportation industry leaders.

We believe that CREATE will demonstrate the significant benefits of public-private partnerships in rail transportation and it will become an example that other areas will follow. We support State of Illinois and federal funding to fulfill the \$1.3 billion needed to complete CREATE projects between 2009-2015, and request this letter of support to be included in the CREATE project's request.

Sincerely,



Lawrence L. Sutter, Ph. D.
Director, Michigan Tech Transportation Institute



Pasi Lautala, Ph. D., P.E.
Director, Michigan Rail Transportation Program