



February 4, 2009

Dear CREATE Program:

From the days of Abraham Lincoln and his departure to Washington from the Lincoln Depot train station to today's business and leisure travelers, passenger rail service has always been an important part of the vitality of the Springfield area.

The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program (CREATE) will improve freight and passenger rail flow through the rail hub of the nation. The CREATE projects will improve Amtrak service in Illinois as it enters the congested Chicago region. The project will bring improved rail passenger service, greater grade crossing safety, emission reductions and improved energy conservation to the Springfield area

Fast, reliable Amtrak service is important to businesses and residents of our community. Springfield is centrally located and the need for efficient passenger rail service is critical. The Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau strongly supports the CREATE project. We look forward to the improvements that will benefit our community and others throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Farley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Farley
Executive Director
Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau