

Vulcan Materials Company

DAVID P. CLEMENT
VICE PRESIDENT / GENERAL MANAGER - NORTH REGION

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

Illinois Dept. of Transportation
Division of Public and
Intermodal Transportation

Dear Mr. Clary:

Vulcan Materials Company is the nation's leading producer of construction aggregates. With quarries and rail-served distribution facilities throughout Illinois, we provide essential infrastructure materials required by the U.S. and regional economies. Vulcan understands the value of infrastructure investments and applauds Illinois' efforts to modernize its freight rail infrastructure through CREATE. As an employer of over 600 people in the Midwest, Vulcan recognizes that programs like CREATE provide jobs. An investment in CREATE adds jobs not only for Vulcan, but also for our competitors, suppliers, and customers throughout the region.

Through the CREATE program, significant investments have been made to reduce passenger/freight rail and highway-rail grade crossing congestion. However, much more needs to be done. Without additional funding from the U.S. Congress and the Illinois Legislature, needed CREATE projects may not be completed. With freight shipping needs projected to double by 2035, and nearly one-half of rail and truck shipments moving through Chicago, industries dependent on freight rail to get goods into and through Chicago cannot tolerate 36 hour rail delays. When a rail shipment takes longer to get through Chicago than it takes to come from Long Beach to Chicago, the transportation capacity of the region is limited, and the economic vitality of the region is threatened.

As the recent National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission Report stated so succinctly, "... the transportation challenges facing the Nation have reached crisis proportions – the deferred maintenance of its basic infrastructure; the burgeoning international trade and its impact on our road and rail networks; the traffic congestion that is crippling metropolitan America. The future of our Nation's well being, vitality, and global economic leadership is at stake..." It is imperative that safe and efficient freight movement remains one of our nation's top priorities. This is what CREATE is all about — mitigating freight rail congestion in Chicago, our nation's transportation hub.

Vulcan understands that investments in infrastructure, the backbone of our economy, create vibrant communities and jobs. The CREATE Program has already identified over \$774 million worth of projects that could be undertaken or completed in the next two years and would support over 17,000 jobs. We at Vulcan support CREATE.

Sincerely,



David P. Clement
Vice President / General Manager – North Region