

April 27, 2009

Dear CREATE Partners:

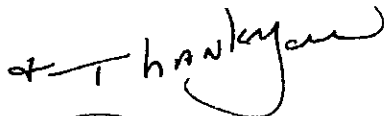

The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and its 2600 member businesses located throughout the seven county metropolitan region, has been a strong supporter of CREATE – the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program – since its inception. This public-private partnership between USDOT, the State of Illinois, City of Chicago, Metra, Amtrak, and the nation’s freight railroads is a project of national significance that will invest \$3 billion in critically needed rail infrastructure improvements and increase the efficiency of freight and passenger service throughout the region.

Traffic congestion in the Chicagoland region is a serious problem and ranks among the worst in the nation. It costs Chicagoland businesses time, money, and jobs. It takes longer for employees to get to work, results in frustration, and reduces productivity. Congestion-related delays in the shipping of goods throughout the region raise prices for both businesses and consumers.

If the specific rail projects contained in the CREATE program are not addressed, studies show the Chicago region will not sustain 17,000 jobs and \$2 billion in annual economic production within two decades. CREATE will protect jobs, improve our quality of life and ensure businesses here and throughout the nation continue to have access to efficient, affordable rail shipping services. A sample of CREATE projects include: 25 new roadway overpasses or underpasses; viaduct improvements; extensive upgrades of tracks, switches, and signal systems. CREATE will spark job growth and help businesses become more efficient and competitive by decreasing shipping times and improving reliability. Nationally, shippers will save an estimated \$40 million annually in reduced inventory costs.

The Chicagoland Chamber supports investing in our infrastructure now by approving funding for CREATE that will provide critical economic, safety and environmental benefits, and help jump start our economy.

Sincerely,

Gerald J. Roper
President & CEO