



Richard M. Daley
Mayor, City of Chicago
Founding Chairman

Jeffrey T. Sherwin
Mayor, City of Northlake
Executive Board Chairman

Joseph Cook
President, Village of Channahon
Executive Board Vice Chairman

March 5, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Quinn
Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program

Dear Governor Quinn:

On behalf of the member mayors of Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, I am writing to offer the Caucus's continued support for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program. The Caucus represents 273 municipalities and over 8 million residents in the Chicago region.

State funding of \$500 million for CREATE will leverage existing resources, including \$86 million from the Federal government, secured through the Federal reauthorization bill, SAFETEA-LU, \$100 million from the freight rail industry, and \$30 million from the City of Chicago. Overall the CREATE program has an unfunded need of \$2.5 billion.

CREATE is a project of national significance which will materially increase the performance and safety of the rail system throughout the Chicago region and improve the movement of freight throughout the entire country. Currently, the Chicago region is the country's freight rail hub. Without implementation of CREATE, we stand to lose significant economic benefits as shippers elect to avoid the congestion and delays of our antiquated rail infrastructure.

Thank you for your ongoing support of CREATE. It is important to our region's current businesses, and our future growth of Illinois, that the State Capital Program include a minimum of \$500 million for CREATE to supplement Federal, private railroad, and Chicago of Chicago funding commitments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey T. Sherwin', written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey T. Sherwin
Mayor, City of Northlake
Executive Board Chairman

City of Chicago • DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference • Lake County Municipal League • McHenry County Council of Governments
Metro West Council of Governments • Northwest Municipal Conference • South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Southwest Conference of Mayors • West Central Municipal Conference • Will County Governmental League

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