



April 4, 2008

Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1401

Dear Senator Lugar;

With the turmoil over setting aside funds for special projects, better known as earmarks, I sincerely hope that our request is given serious consideration. The Greater Lafayette Public Transportation Corporation, also known as CityBus, is requesting \$2.1 million from the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5309 discretionary funds. The money will be used to purchase five diesel electric hybrid buses. CityBus will provide the 20% match of \$525,000.

The importance of hybrid technology has never been greater. The cost of diesel increased by 50% over 2007. The impact of the increase in terms of dollars exceeds \$400,000. If we were able to use that money for our core responsibilities we could add three buses a day to serve areas where we currently do not operate. There are areas on the edges of our community where poverty has been increasing. We also have a new hospital in Lafayette that is not on a bus line. Food service workers, janitorial employees, and volunteers will not be able to reach the new hospital because of the cost of diesel fuel.

Energy independence has many components. Public transportation has to play an important role in reducing the amount of energy we consume as a nation on a daily basis. Without your help in securing the available funds Indiana will lag behind the rest of the country in the effort to reduce our energy needs. The use of public transportation throughout our community is up 14.2% for 2008, including a 20% increase in the month of February. The citizens of Lafayette have shown they will use public transit for a variety of reasons including the benefit to reducing our need to rely on imported oil.

Thank you for your help last year in securing the \$2.8 million for the hybrid initiative. Hopefully in the upcoming weeks INDOT will be releasing the funds so that we may purchase another five hybrid buses to add to the four that are already in service.

I take pride in being a Lugar Energy Patriot and look forward to working with you and your fine staff in accomplishing very important energy related goals for our nation.

Sincerely,

Martin Sennett
General Manager
GLPTC