

Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors

July 22, 2010

The Honorable Frank Lautenberg
Chairman, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and
Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lautenberg:

On behalf of the members of the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC), I would like to thank you for introducing a critical piece of legislation designed to address the nation's growing goods movement needs.

The Focusing Resources, Economic Investment and Guidance to Help Transportation Act of 2010 (FREIGHT Act) is a landmark bill, leading the charge to transform this nation's approach to transportation policy and support economic recovery. The bill provides a visionary, comprehensive, systemic approach to infrastructure investment that addresses the nation's commerce needs while providing a solid foundation that will also help our nation meet its energy, environment and safety goals.

The FREIGHT Act directs the Department of Transportation to develop and implement a National Freight Transportation Strategic Plan to guide and inform goods movement infrastructure investments.

It also calls for the creation of an Office of Freight Planning and Development, to be led by an Assistant Secretary for Freight Planning and Development, two institutional advances that will improve and coordinate policy within the federal government and the states and for which CAGTC members have long advocated. Providing for an office dedicated to the nation's goods movement is a vital and long overdue step forward.

In addition, the bill calls for the creation of a new National Freight Infrastructure Grants program. As you know well, CAGTC members strongly support the creation of such a program and we thank you for your leadership in bringing this concept forward. In line with CAGTC's policies, the program is structured as a merit-based, competitive grant program, designed to focus funds where they will provide the most public benefit. This multimodal

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OnTrac

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Parsons

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Port Authority of New
York/New Jersey

Port of Cleveland

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Port of Los Angeles

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Port of Pittsburgh

Port of San Diego

Port of Seattle

Port of Stockton

Port of Tacoma

Port of Vancouver USA

RAILCET

River of Trade Corridor
Coalition

Riverside (Calif.) County
Transportation
Commission

San Bernardino Associated
Governments

SANDAG - San Diego
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San Gabriel Valley
Economic Partnership

Seattle Department of
Transportation

Southern California
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Southern California
Leadership Council

Spokane Regional
Transportation Council

Tennessee Department of
Transportation

Virginia Port Authority

Washington State
Department of
Transportation

West Coast Corridor
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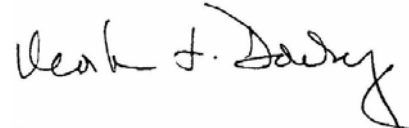
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freight program will serve the economic needs of our country in the near term and for generations to come by making investment decisions that optimize freight mobility, especially at locations of national significance, unconstrained by mode or political jurisdiction.

CAGTC members applaud the work of the Committee in taking up this bill and commend you once again for your bold leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you to get the FREIGHT Act of 2010 moving quickly, so that our nation's multimodal freight infrastructure network can live up to its potential as a economic asset.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mortimer J. Downey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Mortimer Downey
Chairman, CAGTC