

FREIGHT STAKEHOLDERS COALITION

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March 13, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Honorable Gary Locke
Nominee for Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary LaHood and Governor Locke:

Several member organizations of the Freight Stakeholders Coalition have been participating in workshops convened by the International Trade Administration, in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, on the important matter of the supply chain infrastructure. Participating departmental representatives have explained that the workshops will aid in the planning of a May conference on the subject.

We applaud you and the Obama Administration for recognizing that vibrant systems of commerce and transportation are interdependent and for undertaking such an initiative at this critical time. We urge you to give this effort your close attention and hope the Obama Administration will lead the way in proposing a national freight policy in the coming months.

In recent years the American freight community, including our international partners in the global supply chain, has been intent on engaging the Federal and State governments to address the goods movement aspects of the national transportation system. We believe that to maintain the status quo would be an inadequate transportation policy as the United States competes in a global economy.

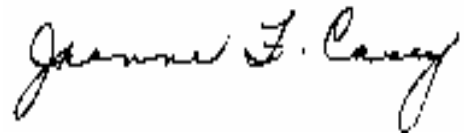
In the last few years government sponsored reports and national organizations have documented the need for an aggressive U.S. policy to address the increasing demands for a more efficient supply chain and system of infrastructure. The problem cited most often is that the Federal government lacks a national freight policy and that States are not well equipped to address freight system requirements when implementing Federal programs.

The Administration and Congress soon will delve into the details of revitalizing the national transportation system through surface transportation legislation. It is a daunting task complicated by the unavoidable challenge of fixing the financing mechanisms that underpin Federal investments in the infrastructure. On behalf of the many freight system stakeholders who are deeply concerned with our nation's future competitiveness, we support the conference as a first step in developing a national freight policy and welcome your continuing leadership.

Very truly yours,



Jean C. Godwin
Co-Chair
Freight Stakeholders Coalition



Joanne Casey
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