

August 4, 2010

Kirk T. Steudle, Director
Michigan Department of Transportation
425 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Mr. Steudle:

The _____ enthusiastically supports MDOT's applications for the Federal Railroad Administration's High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program. Specifically, project applications which enhance and further develop the Chicago Hub (Chicago-Detroit/Pontiac) High-Speed Rail Corridor.

The development of high-speed rail between Chicago and Detroit/Pontiac is an exciting project which will revitalize the domestic manufacturing industry and create additional American jobs while reducing congestion and allowing for a more balanced transportation system.

Ridership on Amtrak has grown nationally from 2000 through 2008, and is on track in 2010 for its best year ever. Specifically in Michigan, the first six months of 2010 are at the highest levels ever with over 350,000 passengers through June 2010, further demonstrating the increased demand for intercity passenger rail services.

Building on what has been achieved on western end of the corridor, including current passenger speeds up to 95 mph, Michigan is positioned to expand this success east of Kalamazoo to Detroit creating more efficient intercity passenger rail service to Michigan citizens. We want you to know we are urging others to also contact MDOT and describe how important the high speed rail project is to this region and the entire Midwest.

High Speed Rail is immensely important to Michigan's economic growth and it is important for the business communities of Michigan to join together in support of this project. Please consider this as our whole-hearted support in your efforts to fully develop high-speed intercity passenger rail service in Michigan. You need not reply to this correspondence.

Sincerely,