



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
SENATE

SENATOR  
MIKE JACOBS  
36TH DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS  
62706

November 20, 2008

Rod Blagojevich  
Governor  
207 Capitol Building  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

Together, we have led the nation in expanding and improving Amtrak service in our state. Ridership and revenue have skyrocketed since we doubled the size of the Amtrak Illinois program in 2006. Illinois residents really appreciate the expanded service.

There is a pressing and inexpensive opportunity to move forward with an Amtrak Illinois expansion to the Quad Cities region, which will service the largest population base without passenger rail service to Chicago. The State of Iowa has plans to expand service west of the Mississippi River.

Getting Amtrak Illinois service from Chicago to the Quad Cities will require a connection between the BNSF Railway and the Iowa Interstate Railroad at Wyanet. This railroad interchange would create a Quad Cities branch of the Quincy-Galesburg-Naperville-Chicago BNSF Corridor. The total cost of the Wyanet connection is estimated at \$7 million.

It's our understanding that IDOT has conducted preliminary plans for the Wyanet connection, however, we need to complete final engineering work before construction can begin. That's why we are writing you today.

Please begin the engineering work and land acquisition negotiations for the Wyanet connection as soon as possible.

With the engineering work complete, we can then work together to secure funding to complete the Wyanet connection. We should not delay the engineering and land acquisition work another month.

While only one of us represents the Quad Cities region, we all understand how this corridor will create a stronger passenger rail network in Illinois.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*

*Antonio Medina*

*David R. Viscito*

*William*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*Mark R. Frank*

*Mr. B.*

*Jane Chisina*

*Way A. Roth*

*Sam. Bower*

*John D. Jones*

*Camela Plattiff*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*J. Budder Buggart*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*Matthe. Chert*

*Ruby Hagan*

*Rose. Gaudet*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*Kimberly A. Haddock*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

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