



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE OF ILLINOIS

November 21, 2008

Governor Blagojevich
207 State House
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.

We request that engineering work and land acquisition negotiations for the Wyanet connection begin as soon as possible. The cost of this work should not be more than \$100,000 and could potentially be completed by IDOT staff.


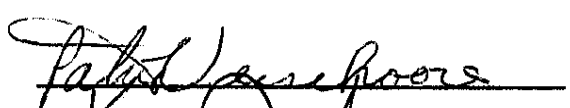
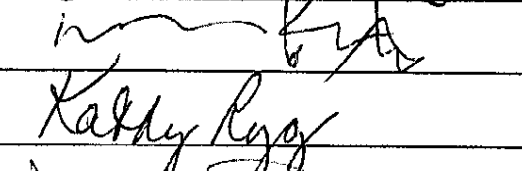
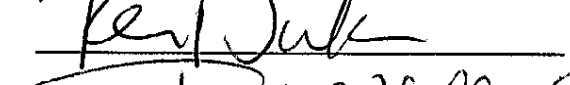
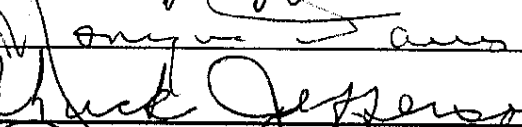
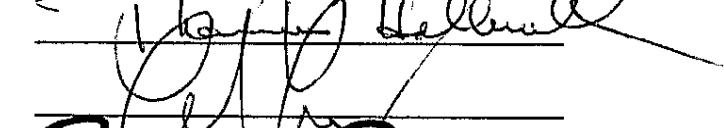

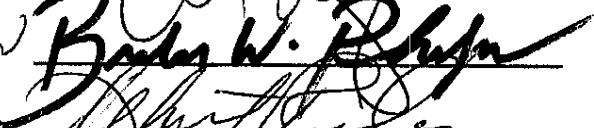
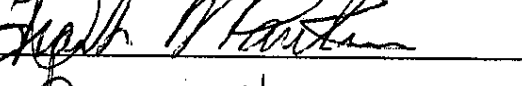
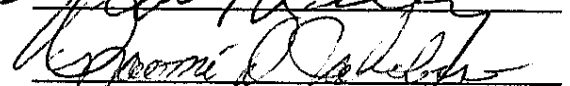
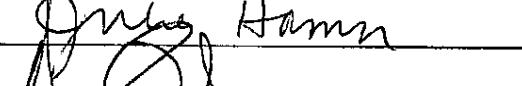

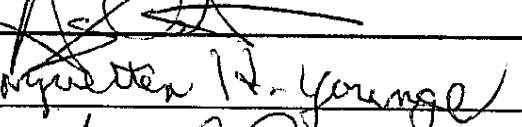
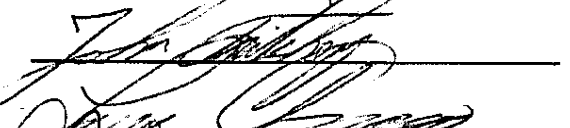

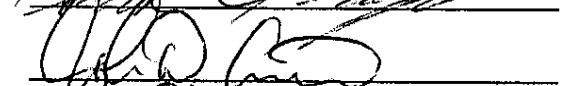
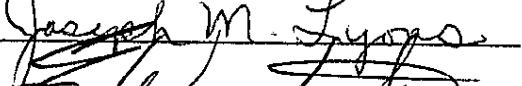
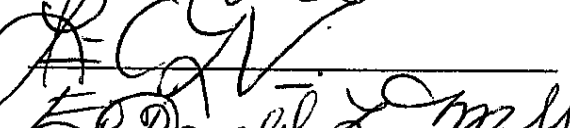
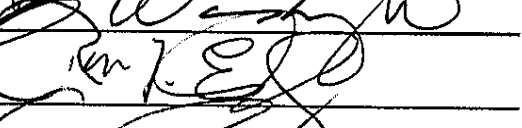
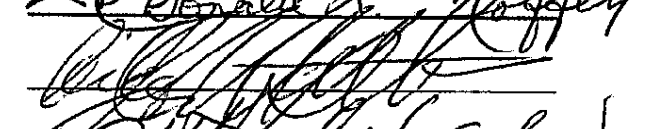
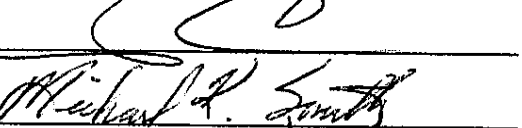
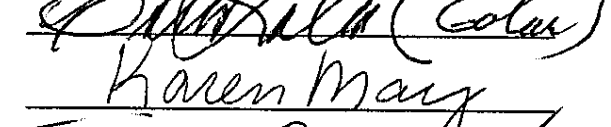
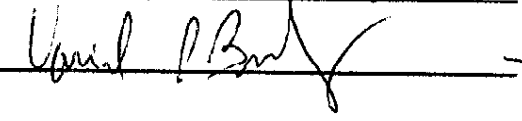
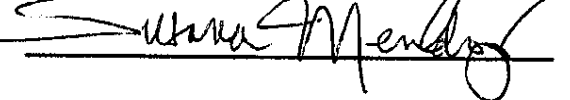

With the engineering work complete, we can then work together to secure funding to complete the Wyanet connection. We should not delay the engineering and land acquisition work another month.

November 21, 2008

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

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara Feigenholtz
 Karen M. Gordon
 Deborah J. Gordon
 Mike Hill
 David Hill
 Rick Joyce
 Tom Joyce
 Tom Joyce
 John Kane
 Mike Kasper
 Bill Kasper
 Peter R. Kasper
 Peter R. Kasper
 Matt Beauty
 Bob Higgins
 Jim Kasper
 Jim Kasper
 Mike P. Kasper
 Chris P. Kasper
 Tom Kasper

Rick Kasper
 Jerry Mitchell
 DAVID R. Feitch
 Dave Winters
 Jack McLeice
 Mike Boland
 Amazon Col
 Carolyn A. Krause
 Sandra Likos
 Mike Feitch
 Randy Ramey
 Jim Feitch
 Jim Feitch
 Richard P. Myers
 Jim Feitch
 Jim Feitch
 James H. Myers
 Grant Feitch
 Quintance A. Howard
 Jim Feitch

Edward Kennedy

James P. Book

Robert D. Yates

~~John D. [unclear]~~

Paul Torchlich

Robert H. Fisher

Ben Benson

William Davis

Gary [unclear]

Elizabeth [unclear]

John [unclear]

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