



Appendix H

Letters of Support and Endorsement

Note

Additional letters of support and endorsement are expected beyond the application date. An up-to-date listing can be found at

www.iowadot.gov/tiger15-freight

Lead applicant
Iowa Department of Transportation

Partnering agencies
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Worth County, IA

Appendix H

Letters of Support and Endorsement Index

Project Parties

- Iowa Department of Transportation
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Worth County, Iowa
- Iowa Northern Railway Company/UMTH, LLC

Elected and government officials

- Senator Charles Grassley, United States Senate
- Congressman Rod Blum, (1st District) United States House of Representatives
- Congressman Dave Loebsack, (2nd District) United States House of Representatives
- Congressman David Young (3rd District) United States House of Representatives
- Congressman Steve King, (4th District) United States House of Representatives
- Senator Tod Bowman, Iowa Senate
- Senator Amanda Ragan, Iowa Senate District 27
- Representative Linda Upmeyer, Iowa House Majority Leader, District 54
- Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture, Iowa Department of Agriculture
- Debi Durham, Director, Iowa Economic Development Authority

Transportation Organizations or Companies

- Florilli Logistics, LLC
- Forbs Export Services, LLC

Economic development organizations

- Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance
- Cultivation Corridor
- Jackson County, MN Office of Economic Development
- North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corp.
- Win-Worth Betco (Winnebago-Worth Counties Betterment Council)

Educational Institutions

- Eastern Iowa Community College
- Iowa Association of Community College Trustees
- Iowa Central Community College
- North Iowa Area Community College
- Northeast Iowa Community College
- Northwest Iowa Community College

Trade organizations

- Iowa Association of Business and Industry
- Iowa Concrete Paving Association
- Iowa Motor Truck Association
- National Propane Gas Association
- Soy Transportation Coalition

Businesses

- 3M
- A to Z Drying, Inc.
- Bakke & Gordon Law Offices
- CJ Bio America
- Corn Belt Power Cooperative
- Corridor Business Journal
- Cottingham & Butler
- Croell Redi-mix
- DavisBrown Law Firm
- Denso
- Diamond V
- Farmers Coop Association
- Farmers Trust and Savings Bank
- Gold-Eagle Cooperative
- Graham Wood Doors
- John Deere
- Henkel Construction Company
- Hi Yield Products
- Hormel Foods
- Kahler Automation
- Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative
- Magna International, Incorporated
- MaxYield Cooperative
- Meadowland Soy
- Musco Lighting
- Northern Country Coop
- Sukup Manufacturing Company
- Staggemeyer Stave Co.
- Stellar Industries Inc.
- Tama Benton Cooperative
- Universal Industries
- Van Diest Supply Co.

Continued

- Vermeer
- Wapsie Valley Creamery
- Wayne Engineering
- WFS
- Whirlpool Corporation

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is pleased to submit an application for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) project for the United States Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program. If successful in obtaining an award, the Iowa DOT will administer the project. The full resources of the Iowa DOT will be available to assure that obligation dates and all other federal requirements are met.

This project exemplifies a regional, public-private approach to further state and national economic development, infrastructure improvement, and intermodal priorities. I am pleased that the Minnesota DOT has recognized the regional benefits of this application and has joined us as a partnering agency in this application. In addition, private matching funds are being committed by the Iowa Northern Railway Company (IANR) and the UMTH, LLC, an operating entity of IANR. Iowa DOT's administration of the project will include funding oversight.

I strongly support the development of a regional, full-service intermodal facility in Manly, Iowa, at an established yard and terminal. The UMTH project meets the TIGER grant program's strategic goals and project readiness criterion, and its benefits extend beyond Iowa's borders to Minnesota and other Midwestern states. By expanding the way in which the region's products can be shipped, this project has the potential to transform the economy and lives of those in the Upper Midwest.

The Iowa DOT's own Freight Advisory Council has identified both a lack of intermodal facilities and a lack of qualified truck drivers as a challenge to improving freight transportation within Iowa. By harnessing the strengths of both the rail industry and the trucking industry at a new regional intermodal facility, the region will have a stronger, more diversified transportation system.

We believe the UMTH project provides an innovative approach to invest in an intermodal project that will help lower transportation costs for intermodal shipments for Midwestern producers and consumers and strengthen the region's economy. Specifically, the UMTH will help:

- Facilitate federal, state, local, and private sector collaboration to improve the efficiency of the national freight network;

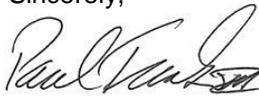
- Improve transportation safety by reducing reliance on road transportation;
- Improve the condition of existing transportation facilities and systems;
- Increase transportation options and destinations for Midwestern products, and thus, more competitive transportation pricing;
- Reduce routine “long haul” trucking to intermodal centers outside of Iowa;
- Provide opportunities for more attractive jobs in the trucking industry by encouraging shorter hauls that get drivers home to their families and communities;
- Facilitate the growth of Midwestern exports in manufactured and agricultural products, including value added products that help create jobs and increase family incomes;
- Facilitate effective containerized shipping of the region’s organic and genetically modified agricultural products to preserve source and genetic identity, and support the growth in diversified farming practices;
- Reduce the use of fossil fuels and shrink emissions due to less truck miles and more efficient rail miles;
- Support growth in warehousing and distribution centers in the region where intermodal service is critical;
- Improve the competitiveness of Iowa’s wind energy manufacturing facilities and biofuel products in the global marketplace; and
- Improve the shipping container balance and availability for Midwestern products.

Additionally, the project will help achieve critical national objectives, including:

- Advancing the President's goals to increase exports and improving America's competitiveness in a global economy.
- Supporting the core functions of the White House Rural Council and advancing our nation's bioeconomy.
- Supporting the President's goals to reduce transportation-related air emissions and to diversify America's energy portfolio by improving the competitiveness of alternative fuels, including biofuels.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub TIGER grant applications.

Sincerely,



Paul Trombino III
Director

PT:lp



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Transportation Building

395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-1899

May 28, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER 2015 – Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I wish to express the Minnesota Department of Transportation's support for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa that is the subject of an Iowa DOT grant application under TIGER 2015. I recognize the many regional benefits of this project, and am pleased to join Iowa DOT's application as a partnering agency.

The proposed investment will strengthen the market access and transportation options for a full range of businesses in this region and the Upper Midwest. Minnesota's interest lies in the economic competitiveness of industries in southeastern Minnesota, a region notable for its farm production and food processing, but also supporting a diverse manufacturing sector and high technology presence in energy and medical technology. The area has built a vibrant economy on export markets to a large extent. The Manly facility would for the first time provide a direct rail access for containerized goods to the major Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, via the Iowa Northern and the Union Pacific, and entry onto domestic container corridors to all parts of the nation. Current logistics patterns require an expensive and often indirect truck haul to Chicago, the Twin Cities, or Kansas City to reach an intermodal terminal, presenting a significant barrier to the competitiveness of businesses with a national and international reach.

Approval of this grant will enhance the capacity and efficiency of our transportation infrastructure that will grow our presence in new markets and bolster the entire regional and U.S. economy. We ask that you give positive consideration to this notable addition to the integrated freight transportation network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Zelle".

Charles A. Zelle
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation

c: Paul Trombino III, Iowa DOT Director



**OFFICE OF
WORTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Ken Abrams, Chairperson
Dave Haugen, Vice-Chairperson
Merlin Bartz, Supervisor

**1000 CENTRAL AVE
NORTHWOOD, IA 50459**

**PHONE 641-324-3630
FAX 641-324-3682**

The Honorable Secretary Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 8, 2015

Dear Secretary Foxx:

This letter is in support of the Iowa DOT TIGER Grant Application to establish an Upper Midwest Transportation Hub to be located at Manly, Worth County, IA. A successful TIGER grant for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub will develop a full service intermodal container facility for handling of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers. This development will serve customers in an approximate 150 mile radius in north central Iowa and south central Minnesota.

Worth County is a partnering agency in this venture. Worth County has previously provided \$1.5 million toward development of rail infrastructure at this site. Worth County's funds were matched by the Iowa DOT with \$3 million in funding towards rail infrastructure at this site. So, as you can see, both Worth County and the Iowa DOT have identified this location as a vital rail site in the State of Iowa.

Worth County has continued to work, through our economic development office, Winn-Worth Betco, on marketing this location for further development. In fact, this site is one of 2 we are focusing on for economic development in Worth County. This site is the focus of industrial development. The other site is the focus of commercial/retail development. We recently have had some success with the first U.S. location (by an industrial company from India) at this rail site, as well as an expansion by a regional Iowa company at this site. We continue to work hard to develop this location, along with our partners.

This TIGER Grant Application is of vital importance to the development of an Upper Midwest Transportation Hub, to assist our local, regional, and Midwest companies with the following business concerns:

- Reducing transportation costs for intermodal shipments, increasing profitability for regional producers.
- Increasing available markets for the region's products and encourages competitive pricing because of the multiple rail connections at or near the Manly location.

- Facilitating the growth of exports in manufactured products and agricultural goods such as dried distiller's grain and identity-preserved grains.
- Encouraging regional growth in warehousing and distribution centers where intermodal service is critical.
- Mitigating an emerging trucking capacity shortfall and encourages more cooperation among trucking and rail firms to grow their business together.
- Providing options to "long haul" trucking, which can be more expensive and is less attractive to today's workforce.
- Saving fossil fuels and reduces emissions due to fewer truck miles and more efficient rail miles.
- Removing large volumes of traffic from congested highways in large municipalities.
- Locating an intermodal transfer facility at an existing transportation hub where support services, a rail yard and some existing infrastructure can be used or repurposed, leveraging prior public/private investments.

We are very concerned about our existing businesses and their ability to stay competitive in a business environment where transportation costs are vital to their bottom line. If our businesses are unable to stay competitive in our region, it will affect our bottom line, tax revenues. As a governmental entity, we fund the public services we provide from the tax revenues collected in Worth County. We need to retain the businesses we have, the population base we have, and the employment levels we have, and would like to see those things grow. This Upper Midwest Transportation Hub would definitely be a benefit to the regional companies, and could assist us in keeping our local economy strong and even position our economy for growth if the Hub happens here.

Please seriously consider this TIGER Grant Application. If funded, it will have a great impact on the future growth and stability of the economy in Iowa and a large portion of Minnesota. We look forward to a positive response to the application.

Sincerely,



Ken Abrams
Chairman
Worth County Board of Supervisors

cc: Iowa Northern Railway Company
P.O. Box 640
Greene, IA. 50636



Iowa Northern Railway Company

Paramount Theatre Building
305 Second Street, Southeast, Suite 400
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401
319-297-6000

May 31, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Iowa Department of Transportation as lead applicant and the Minnesota Department of Transportation as a partnering agency are submitting a TIGER Grant application for the infrastructure construction for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) project at Manly, Iowa. The request is for a grant of \$7.1 million or 46 percent of the total cost of the UMTH project.

Iowa Northern Railway Company (IANR) is pleased to support the two State DOTs on this critical, transformative project, and commit private funding of \$9,065,138 for this TIGER grant application. For over thirty years, Iowa Northern Railway Company (IANR) has worked to bring safe and efficient rail service to the communities served between Manly and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and we have a strong partnership with Iowa DOT and Worth County, Iowa. IANR has grown from a modest start-up short line in 1984 with little traffic, to a successful and dynamic railroad with multiple connections and a growing portfolio of customers. IANR also handles classification and staging of carload traffic for Union Pacific (UP), supporting their congested Twin Cities Terminal operations.

As IANR has grown, there have been many changes in our rural area, and some have not been good. We can do a lot on our railroad to support the needs of shippers and producers, but we cannot do it all without additional innovation. Our region urgently needs modern and affordable intermodal service so our north Iowa-southern Minnesota area can retain and attract new industries by connecting with the international trading network. Shippers with cargo going to Mexican or Eastern, and Southwestern US markets involves costly dray moves over 400 miles to reach existing intermodal terminals in Chicago. Those same loads often then travel back through Iowa in unit trains of the Class I carriers.

The development of a regional, full-service intermodal facility in Manly, Iowa, at an established yard and terminal and has the potential to transform the way products are shipped in the Upper Midwest. It offers an innovative approach to invest in an intermodal project that will

help lower transportation costs for intermodal shipments for Midwestern producers and consumers and strengthen the region's economy.

The UMTH, LLC was recently formed by principals of IANR. The UMTH intermodal operation can easily be absorbed into IANR's existing daily operations.

IANR is currently going through an equity recapitalization that will provide funds to not only build the intermodal facility, but to also finish substantial improvements to IANR tracks. This upgrade, expected to be completed by fourth Quarter, 2016 will allow IANR to raise track speeds to support the competitive transit times needed to add double stack container trains to our line. We have already completed replacement of five bridges that had restrictive clearances that would have prevented the movement of double stack containers on our main line.

IANR will oversee the construction and operations of the intermodal facility, which will be adjacent to our existing logistics campus at Manly and within the existing loop track of Manly Logistics Park (MLP).



In the event that the TIGER Grant is awarded to Iowa DOT, IANR is committed to provide the necessary resources for the completion of the project.

Land will be conveyed under an existing arrangement with the current landowners (and equity partners with IANR in MLP). Cascade ail, track and turnout construction and work trains will be

furnished by IANR. Lift equipment will be purchased by IANR at startup. These components of the total cost represent a major portion of the non-TIGER portion of the project: All other expenses required after the TIGER Grant would be covered by IANR from internally generated funds.

<u>Item</u>	<u>TIGER Grant</u>	<u>IANR/UMTH, LLC</u>	
Land Conveyance		\$2,724,193	
Rail		\$ 577,500	
Track Construction		\$1,412,362	
TIGER Grant	\$7,100,000	----	
All Other Expense		\$4,351,083	<u>Total</u>
Total Project Cost	\$7,100,000	\$9,065,138	\$16,165,137

IANR has the operating personnel, expertise and resources to partner with Iowa DOT to get this new opportunity underway as quickly as possible. IANR/UMTH, LCC will share the responsibility for the intermodal operation. By starting quite small and scaling up as traffic is generated, we are confident that we will be able to manage and fund the project without difficulty.

IANR will be working closely with our connecting lines to coordinate markets, rail connections and access to their networks. We also plan on working with them to expand intermodal networks to Manly for the Eastern Class I carriers over Chicago as well. We also plan to invite our other connecting railroads to have direct access to the new facility. This will give potential customers efficient access to the entire North American rail network, providing an innovative approach to solving the growing problem of limited, competitive and economical access to freight transportation in the Region.

IANR is also working with various trucking and warehouse interests to develop additional infrastructure at Manly to enhance the volumes and capacity to the over-all logistic opportunities that would occur if this application is approved. In addition, Iowa DOT has outlined significant public benefits within the application.

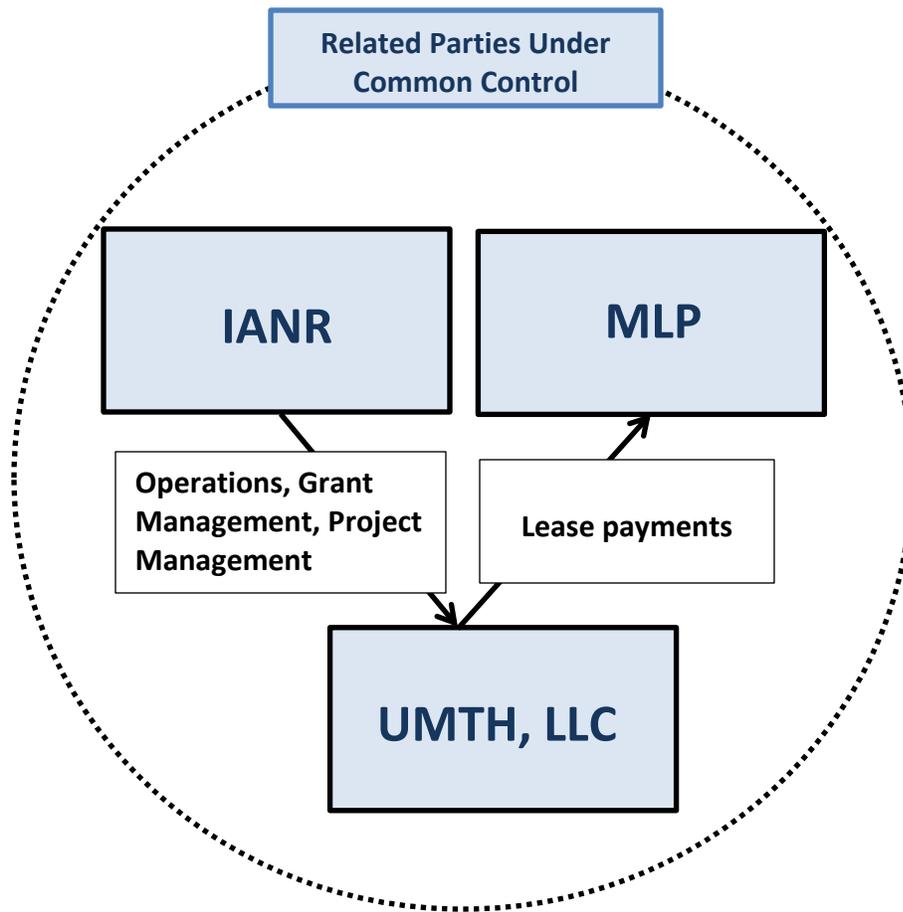
A TIGER Grant to the Iowa DOT for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa, will go a long way toward achieving economic success for this region.

Sincerely,



Daniel R. Sabin, President

Attachment to IANR letter



Elected and government officials

REPLY TO:

- 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
www.grassley.senate.gov
- 721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2106
(515) 288-1145
- 111 7TH AVENUE, SE, BOX 13
SUITE 6800
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-2101
(319) 363-6832

REPLY TO:

- 120 FEDERAL BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860
- 210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657
- 201 WEST 2ND STREET
SUITE 720
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1817
(563) 322-4331
- 307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

May 22, 2015

Paul Trombino III
Director
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010

Dear Director Trombino:

I have contacted Anthony Foxx, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, regarding the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly TIGER grant application submitted by the Iowa Department of Transportation in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. I asked that this application be given all due consideration. Should I receive a response from the U.S. Department of Transportation, I will relay the necessary information to you.

Thank you for allowing me to be of assistance to you. If you have any further questions regarding this, or any other federal matter, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

CEG/sk

Committee Assignments:

CHAIRMAN,
JUDICIARY

AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
FINANCE

CO-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS

ROD BLUM
1ST DISTRICT, IOWA

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

213 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2911

1050 MAIN STREET
DUBUQUE, IA 52001
(563) 557-7789

301 3RD STREET SE
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401
(319) 364-2288

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590-9898

**RE: TIGER Grant Application:
Iowa Department of Transportation – Upper Midwest Transportation Hub**

Dear Secretary Foxx: .

I write in support of an application being submitted by the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) for a FY 2016 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa. This application is joined by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The Upper Midwest Transportation Hub is an investment in intermodal service and truck/rail connectivity for the movement of freight within an estimated 150-mile radius of Manly, Iowa. This multistate region is rich in agricultural products, food processing facilities, and manufacturing but lacks nearby intermodal shipping options. A facility for handling and trans-loading domestic and international shipping trailers and containers will help this region attract businesses that increasingly relies on these services to stay competitive.

This project provides freight shippers in this region with better rail access domestic and international markets, facilitating the growth of exports - including agricultural products of emerging importance such as dried distiller's grain and identity-preserved grains. In addition, the investment will benefit safety and the environment by reducing the number of truck miles and making the rail miles more efficient, as well as creating jobs through growth of warehousing and distribution centers.

Ultimately, I believe this partnership will help advance the goal of modernizing the supply chain nationwide.

Accordingly, I strongly support the application of the Iowa DOT. I request that you give all due attention to the application for this exemplary project, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rod L. Blum
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

May 25, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I write to convey my strong support for the Iowa DOT's FY 2015 TIGER grant application for its Upper Midwest Transportation Hub project. This project will develop an independent, full service intermodal container facility for the transfer of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers from truck to rail and rail to truck.

This region is currently at a disadvantage in attracting and keeping businesses that need intermodal services. Now, many Iowa and southern Minnesota shippers requiring intermodal service typically truck commodities to intermodal centers in Chicago, Kansas City, Council Bluffs (Iowa's only intermodal center) or Minneapolis (existing intermodal centers have limited routing options) where their products enter the national rail system.

TIGER funding for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub will serve customers in an approximate 150-mile radius in north central Iowa and southern Minnesota. This rural region is rich in agricultural products, food processing and manufacturing, but is currently at a disadvantage in attracting and keeping businesses that need intermodal services. The benefits of this project range from reduced transportation costs for shippers and facilitating the growth of exports in agricultural and manufactured products, to saving fossil fuel and leveraging over \$25 million in prior private investment.

I urge your office to give this the appropriate attention and fair examination it deserves. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Dave Loeb sack



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

DAVID YOUNG
Congressman
3rd District, Iowa

June 4, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

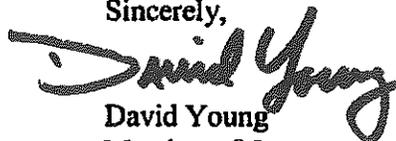
Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in regard to the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly TIGER grant application being submitted by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

The Upper Midwest Transportation Hub will develop an independent, full-service intermodal container facility for the transfer of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers from truck-to-rail and rail-to-truck. It will serve customers in an approximate 150-mile radius in north central Iowa and southern Minnesota. This rural region is rich in agricultural products, food processing and manufacturing, but is currently at a disadvantage in attracting and keeping businesses that need intermodal services. The benefits of this project range from reduced transportation costs for shippers and facilitating the growth of exports in agricultural and manufactured products, to leveraging over \$25 million in prior private investment. This public-private partnership will help ensure the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub operates in a cost-effective, successful manner.

Thank you for giving this grant proposal your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,


David Young
Member of Congress

Council Bluffs Office:
501 5th Avenue
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
712-325-1404

Creston Office:
208 West Taylor Street
Creston, Iowa 50801
641-782-2495

Des Moines Office:
601 East Locust Street, Suite 204
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515-282-1909

Washington Office:
515 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-5476
202-226-1329 Fax

www.DavidYoung.House.Gov
Instagram—RepDavidYoung
Twitter—RepDavidYoung
Facebook—RepDavidYoung

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

AGRICULTURE
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEPARTMENT
OPERATIONS, OVERSIGHT, AND NUTRITION

May 22, 2015

Washington, DC 20515-1504

JUDICIARY

POLICY

SMALL BUSINESS

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the Iowa Department of Transportation's (DOT) TIGER grant application. The Iowa DOT, in partnership with the Minnesota DOT, would use these grant funds to develop an Upper Midwest Transportation Hub in Manly, Iowa.

The Upper Midwest Transportation Hub would include an intermodal container facility for handling and trans-loading domestic and international shipping trailers and containers. This transportation hub would serve customers within a 150 mile radius in north central Iowa, as well as south central Minnesota. Since Iowa is small consumption state, there is an imbalance between the number of inbound versus outbound shipping containers, which would be addressed through the development of an Upper Midwest Transportation Hub by increasing access to Minnesota's abundance of inbound containers.

In addition to solving the container imbalance in the region, this transportation hub would lower transportation costs for intermodal shipments, mitigate an emerging trucking shortage crisis, reduce long haul trucking to intermodal centers outside of Iowa and reduce traffic congestion on highways. The Upper Midwest Transportation Hub would also encourage economic development by promoting profitability for producers and increasing the number of connections to other railroads and destinations, which will expand access to new markets.

I support the Iowa DOT's TIGER grant application to develop an Upper Midwest Transportation Hub in Manly, Iowa because I believe it will increase economic development in the region. If you have any questions regarding the Iowa DOT's application or my support of it, please contact my Policy Advisor, Casaday Loomis, at (712) 560-6997.

I appreciate your full and fair consideration of the Iowa DOT's grant application. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,



Steve King
Member of Congress

TOD R. BOWMAN
STATE SENATOR

Twenty-ninth District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

—
HOME ADDRESS
812 Grant St

Maquoketa, IA 52060
H: (563) 652-5499
C: (563) 370-2422
tod.bowman@legis.iowa.gov



The Senate

State of Iowa
Eighty-sixth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, IA 50319

COMMITTEES

Transportation, *Chair*
Agriculture
Economic Growth
Education
State Government

Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals
Appropriations Subcommittee, *Vice Chair*

May 14, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my support for the TIGER Grant Application to establish the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa.

This grant will help develop and complete an intermodal container handling facility, which will allow the trans loading of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers. The facility will have a major positive impact on the area and rail shipping throughout the U.S.

This hub will stimulate a region of rural America, which is working hard to provide economic opportunities and advance the well-being of our citizens. The growth forecast by this project will revitalize Northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota and provide good, high-wage jobs to those still recovering from the recent economic downturn.

The TIGER Grant will help expand intermodal service and truck/rail connectivity, which will help keep down shipping and energy costs on a large scale by providing fast, close, efficient services.

This transportation hub can better rail access to both American coasts, as well as to international ports and markets. Your support for the Manly Transportation Hub TIGER Grant is appreciated, as it would be a vital component to furthering our economic recovery. Thank you for your considering the Manly Transportation Hub for a TIGER Grant.

Sincerely,

State Senator Tod Bowman

AMANDA RAGAN

STATE SENATOR

Twenty-seventh District

Cerro Gordo, Butler and

Franklin Counties

Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

amanda.ragan@legis.iowa.gov

—
HOME ADDRESS

361 S Pennsylvania Ave 1-D

Mason City, IA 50401

H: (641) 424-0874

O: (641) 424-2316



The Senate

State of Iowa

Eighty-sixth General Assembly

STATEHOUSE

Des Moines, IA 50319

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

COMMITTEES

Agriculture, *Vice Chair*

Appropriations

Human Resources, *Vice Chair*

Natural Resources and Environment

Rules and Administration

Veterans Affairs

Health and Human Services Appropriations

Subcommittee, *Chair*

May 13, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The purpose of this letter is to express my strong support for the TIGER Grant Application to establish the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa. This grant will aid in the development and completion of an intermodal container handling facility which will allow the trans-loading of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers. The construction of this facility will have a major positive impact on our area and rail shipping throughout the United States.

First, this hub will have a stimulative effect on a region of rural America which is working very hard to provide economic opportunities and advance the well-being of our citizens. The growth forecast by this project will revitalize Northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota and provide good, high-wage jobs to a population still recovering from the recent economic downturn.

We also believe The TIGER Grant will contribute to expanding much needed intermodal service and truck/rail connectivity in our area. The closest similar services are obtainable 150 miles away or more. This hub can help conserve both shipping costs and energy costs on a large scale by providing fast, close, efficient services.

As our Nation continues to compete strongly in the global marketplace, I feel sure this transportation hub can provide better, more economical, rail access to both American coasts and then on to international ports and markets. Your support for the Manly, Iowa, Transportation Hub TIGER Grant will be greatly appreciated and can be a vital component in furthering the robust recovery we are beginning. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

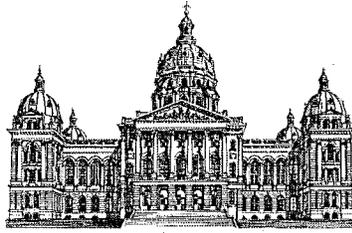
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Ragan".

State Senator Amanda Ragan

Linda L. Upmeyer
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Fifty-Fourth District
Statehouse: (515) 281-4618
e-mail – linda.upmeyer@legis.iowa.gov

HOME ADDRESS
1811 N. 8th Street
Clear Lake, Iowa 50428



House of Representatives
State of Iowa
Eighty-Sixth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

MAJORITY LEADER

COMMITTEES
Administration and Rules
Legislative Council

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

May 19, 2015

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing to express my support for the TIGER Grant Application to establish the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa.

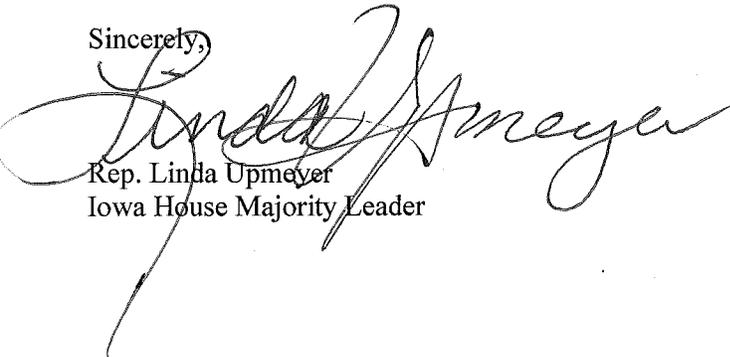
This grant will help develop and complete an intermodal container handling facility, which will allow the transfer of loading domestic and international shipping trailers and containers. The facility will have a major positive impact on the area and rail shipping throughout the U.S.

This hub will stimulate a region of rural America, which is working hard to provide economic opportunities and advance the well-being of our citizens. The growth forecast by this project will revitalize Northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota and provide good, high-wage jobs to those still recovering from the recent economic downturn.

The TIGER Grant will help expand intermodal service and truck/rail connectivity, which will help keep down shipping and energy costs on a large scale by providing fast, close, efficient services.

This transportation hub can better rail access to both American coasts, as well as to international ports and markets. Your support for the Manly Transportation Hub TIGER Grant is appreciated, as it would be a vital component to furthering our economic recovery. Thank you for your considering the Manly Transportation Hub for a TIGER Grant.

Sincerely,


Rep. Linda Upmeyer
Iowa House Majority Leader



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS) recommends support for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) project for the United States Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program.

This project exemplifies a regional approach to further state and national economic development, infrastructure improvement, and intermodal priorities.

IDALS supports the development of a regional, full-service intermodal facility in Manly, Iowa, at an established yard and terminal.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship appreciates your thoughtful consideration of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub TIGER grant applications.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Northey".

Bill Northey
Secretary of Agriculture
Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write to express the Iowa Economic Development Authority's support for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) project for the United States Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program. This project exemplifies a regional approach to further state and national economic development, infrastructure improvement and intermodal priorities. By expanding the way in which the region's products can be shipped, this project has the potential to transform the economy of the Upper Midwest region.

We strongly support the development of a regional, full-service intermodal facility in Manly, Iowa, at an established yard and terminal. The UMTH project meets the TIGER grant program's strategic goals and project readiness criterion, and its benefits extend beyond Iowa's borders to Minnesota and other Midwestern states. Moreover, multiple state agencies, along with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, stand ready to quickly implement this public-private project.

We believe the UMTH project provides an innovative approach to invest in an intermodal project that will help lower transportation costs for intermodal shipments for Midwestern producers and consumers and strengthen the region's economy. Specifically, the UMTH will help:

- Facilitate the growth of Midwestern exports in manufactured and agricultural products, including value added products that help create jobs and increase family incomes;
- Growth in warehousing and distribution centers in the region where intermodal service is critical;
- Increase transportation options and destinations for Midwestern products, and thus, more competitive transportation pricing;
- Facilitate more cost effective shipment of the region's organic and genetically modified agricultural products that require containerization to preserve source and genetic identity;
- Improve the competitiveness of Iowa's wind energy manufacturing facilities and biofuel products in the global marketplace;
- Improve the condition of existing transportation facilities and systems;
- Improve the shipping container balance and availability for Midwestern products;
- Reduce "long haul" trucking to intermodal centers outside of Iowa and reduced rail congestion in the Chicago area;
- Facilitate Federal, State, local and private sector collaboration to improve the efficiency of the

national freight network;

- Reduce the use of fossil fuels and shrink emissions due to less truck miles and more efficient rail miles; and
- Improve transportation safety by reducing reliance on road transportation.

Additionally, the project will help achieve critical national objectives, including:

- Advancement of the President's goals to increase exports and improve America's competitiveness in a global economy;
- Supporting the core functions of the White House Rural Council and advancing our nation's bio economy;
- Supporting the President's goals to reduce transportation-related air emissions and to diversify America's energy portfolio by improving the competitiveness of alternative fuels, including biofuels.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub TIGER grant application.

Sincerely,



Debi V. Durham
Director

Transportation Organizations or Companies

Florilli Logistics, LLC

P.O. Box 186 West Liberty, IA 52776

June 03, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) has prepared a TIGER Grant Application for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) at Manly, Iowa. This TIGER Grant would provide an essential component in bringing competitive intermodal options to a large area that is currently underserved by existing facilities and options. Presently, only limited intermodal service exists from Minneapolis to the Pacific Northwest and Canadian Ports. Service to all other parts of the United States must move through congested intermodal facilities in Chicago. The cost of draying this distance to Chicago adds significant cost to the shipments and thus places the shippers in this region at an economic disadvantage, paying more for an intermodal move or utilizing an over the road truck movement in an environment of very tight capacity.

Long-haul truck transportation capacity has become very tight in recent months. This phenomenon is being caused primarily by an acute shortage of qualified drivers. The reasons for this driver shortage are well documented at this point but what is most critical is the fact that this appears to be a long term problem with few solutions. The only unknown is the severity of the capacity constraints the driver shortage will cause and what consequences will result with respect to disruption of freight distribution. UMTH would provide a critical option to offset this concern by establishing intermodal service to this area and lessening the necessity for long-haul movements to be over the road only. Truck movements would then become dray moves of much shorter distances. Attracting drivers for these types of dray moves is much more viable given the more predictable work schedules and home time capabilities. In essence, given the more desirable life style components, drivers for these positions can more successfully be retained and thus the dray movements become a truck capacity source otherwise not available.

If this TIGER Grant Application is approved, enabling the development of the UMTH and facilitating the presence of an intermodal facility with consistent rail service, it is the intent of Florilli Logistics, LLC to construct a 150,000 sq. ft. cold storage facility at this site as well. This project is estimated to require a 20 million dollar investment and will be operated by Florilli Logistics, LLC. It is anticipated that numerous food producers in this region will perceive the value in utilizing this facility to store their products and ultimately benefit from the facilities immediate access to the intermodal transportation

Ph: 319-627-1221

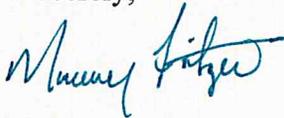
mfitzer@florilli.com

fax: 866-479-0123

service available at this location. Additionally, a fleet of dray equipment will be domiciled at this facility to serve both the intermodal facility and the cold storage.

Florilli Logistics, LLC strongly supports this project and the compelling benefits it offers to the transportation requirements of this region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Murry Fitzer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Murry Fitzer
CEO
Florilli Logistics, LLC

1 June, 2015

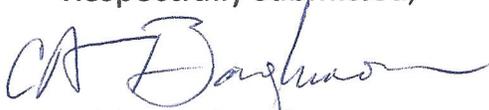
The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590 USA

Dear Director Foxx,

We are writing in support of Iowa Northern Railway Company's efforts to secure a TIGER grant for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub, (UMTH), located in Manly, Iowa.

We have seen and understood firsthand what this type of facility would mean to the international trade conducted here in Iowa and support those efforts wholeheartedly.

Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully submitted,



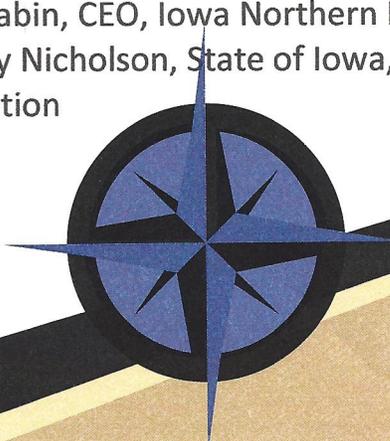
Adrienne Baughman
President/CEO
ExIm Bank broker candidate, State of Iowa



Stacy Timperley
Export Operations Manager

Copies to:

Daniel R. Sabin, CEO, Iowa Northern Railway Company
Ms. Tammy Nicholson, State of Iowa, Department of Transportation, Office of Rail
Transportation



Economic development organizations



June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590-9898

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing on behalf of the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance in support of the joint application of the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation for a FY 2016 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant to partially fund the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH).

The Economic Alliance has more than 1,000 members representing 92,000 employees in Iowa's Creative Corridor. Our work is focused on our vision to be the top economic growth region in the country. Through core functions of business support, economic development, community development, regional development and public policy our mission is to serve as a catalyst for economic diversity, growth and prosperity for our region.

We know a key ingredient in our region's economic growth is a reliable and accessible transportation system. The grant request is to enhance our region's global trade efforts for years to come.

The region is seen as vital to future economic development and business retention in our state and the Economic Alliance strongly supports this grant application. We urge you to give it consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dee Baird".

Dee Baird
President & CEO
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance

VISION:

TO BE THE TOP ECONOMIC GROWTH REGION IN THE COUNTRY.

MISSION:

TO SERVE AS THE CATALYST FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSITY, GROWTH AND PROSPERITY FOR OUR REGION.

VALUES:

WE VALUE OUR MEMBERS AND STRIVE TO EXCEED THEIR EXPECTATIONS.

WE EMBRACE INNOVATION IN OUR WORK.

WE FOCUS ON COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS IN EVERYTHING WE DO.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO A HIGH-PERFORMANCE CULTURE, CENTERED ON CORE COMPETENCIES.





June 05, 2015

Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT – IOWA/ILLINOIS DOT JOINT-TIGER GRANT APPLICATION

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Cultivation Corridor, a regional economic development organization focused on value-added agriculture, I offer this letter in support for the Iowa DOT and Minnesota DOT joint-TIGER grant application for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub.

Enhancing safe, reliable, efficient and cost effective transportation of goods both in and out of the region, this Manly, Iowa hub will keep the upper Midwest in the forefront of global trade for decades to come. This has significant impact on economic development and business retention for our region. Attached is a summary fact sheet briefly outlining the project. With the application being submitted June 3, we need your personal letter of support as soon as possible.

The Manly, Iowa project is an exceptionally important one to ensure the orderly transfer of goods and commodities throughout the Upper Midwest.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of the Iowa/Minnesota DOT joint-TIGER grant application.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brent M. Willett".

Brent M. Willett, CEcD
Executive Director





June 22, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Honorable Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to you, as the Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Jackson, Minnesota, to express my support for the TIGER grant application from the States of Iowa and Minnesota who are partnering to seek partial funding for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) proposed for Manly, Iowa.

The UMTH would provide the manufacturers in Jackson with closer access to an intermodal transportation facility as many of them both import parts and export finished products. The closest intermodal facility to Jackson at this time is 156 miles away in Minneapolis. Access to a UMTH in Manly would allow our manufacturers to send and receive items more quickly and cost effectively. The distance to Manly is 123 miles with no traffic congestion to deal with along the way.

I urge your approval of this grant application. Our vibrant local manufacturing environment here in Jackson will benefit a great deal as will many more from throughout the area.

Thanks you.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Pirsig

cc: Iowa Department of Transportation
Iowa Northern Railway Company

June 1, 2015

Iowa Department of Transportation
Office of Rail Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

To Whom It May Concern:

We understand the Iowa Northern Railway Company located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is applying for a TIGER Grant for their Upper Midwest Transportation Hub in Manly, Iowa. This development will serve customers in an approximate 150 mile radius in North Central Iowa and South Central Minnesota. Many businesses in the region needing intermodal services experience higher transportation costs, making them less competitive due to additional truck miles to a full service intermodal facility.

Businesses with intermodal needs, including warehousing, distribution and many others are less likely to consider Iowa as a future location. Additionally, grain is increasingly shipped in sealed containers to preserve the grain's genetic identity or better protect the grain.

The capacity of the trucking industry is currently constrained and may become more critical due to shortage of qualified drivers and time allocated for "on the road".

In conclusion, the benefits for a positive reaction to the grant request would include: provides options to long haul trucking, increases available markets for the region's products and encouraged competitive pricing, encourages regional growth in warehousing and distribution where intermodal service is critical, locates an intermodal transfer facility at an existing transportation hub where support services, rail yard and some infrastructure can be used leveraging prior public/private investment.

We would encourage a positive response to Iowa Northern Railway Company and their request for the grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chad Schreck".

Chad Schreck
President & CEO





P.O. Box 93
203A North 1st Avenue West
Lake Mills, Iowa 50450
Ph: 641-592-0800
Fax: 641-592-0801

The Honorable Secretary Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 1, 2015

Dear Secretary Foxx:

This letter is in support of the TIGER Grant Application to establish an Upper Midwest Transportation Hub to be located at Manly, Worth County, IA. A successful TIGER grant for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub will develop a full service intermodal container facility for handling of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers. This development will serve customers in an approximate 150 mile radius in north central Iowa and south central Minnesota.

This region is currently at a disadvantage in attracting and keeping businesses that need intermodal services. Currently, Iowa shippers requiring intermodal service typically truck commodities to intermodal centers in Chicago, Kansas City, Council Bluffs (Iowa's *only* intermodal center) or Minneapolis (which has limited routing options) where their products enter the national rail system.

Many businesses in the region needing intermodal service experience higher transportation costs, making them less competitive due to the additional truck miles to a full service intermodal facility. Businesses with intermodal needs (warehousing, distribution, manufacturing, and many others) are less likely to consider Iowa as a future location. Additionally, grain is increasingly shipped in sealed containers to preserve the grain's genetic identity or better protect the grain.

The capacity of the trucking industry is currently constrained and expected to get more critical, due to shortages of qualified drivers and restrictions on hours of service. Continued increases in cost and reductions in available trucking services will drive shippers to reduce long-haul trucking and more extensively use truck/rail intermodal services.

The benefits to establishing this Upper Midwest Transportation Hub are multiple and include:

- Reduces transportation costs for intermodal shipments, increasing profitability for regional producers.
- Increases available markets for the region's products and encourages competitive pricing because of the multiple rail connections at or near the Manly location.
- Facilitates the growth of exports in manufactured products and agricultural goods such as dried distiller's grain and identity-preserved grains.

- Encourages regional growth in warehousing and distribution centers where intermodal service is critical.
- Mitigates an emerging trucking capacity shortfall and encourages more cooperation among trucking and rail firms to grow their business together.
- Provides options to “long haul” trucking, which can be more expensive and is less attractive to today’s workforce.
- Saves fossil fuels and reduces emissions due to fewer truck miles and more efficient rail miles.
- Removes large volumes of traffic from congested highways in large municipalities.
- Locates an intermodal transfer facility at an existing transportation hub where support services, a rail yard and some existing infrastructure can be used or repurposed, leveraging prior public/private investments.

As the economic development office serving Winnebago & Worth Counties in Iowa, we are very concerned about our existing businesses and their ability to stay competitive in a business environment where transportation costs are vital to their bottom line. If our businesses are unable to get raw materials in and finished products out at an affordable cost, they will have to relocate to other areas which allow them to keep their cost of doing business affordable. There are a multitude of businesses in Iowa and MN that this Upper Midwest Transportation Hub that would benefit and assist us in keeping our local economy strong and even position our economy for growth if the Hub happens here. We field calls on a regular basis from companies in our region looking for affordable and alternative ways to get their raw materials into our area.

Please take serious consideration of this TIGER Grant Application as if funded, it will have a tremendous impact on the future growth and stability of the economy in Iowa and a large portion of Minnesota. We look forward to a positive response to the application.

Sincerely,



Teresa Nicholson
Executive Director
Winnebago-Worth Counties Betterment Council

cc: Iowa Northern Railway Company
P.O. Box 640
Greene, IA. 50636

Educational institutions

 EASTERN IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CLINTON ♦ MUSCATINE ♦ SCOTT

June 2, 2015

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert H. Gallagher
President

Mary Lou Engler
Vice-President

Kendra Beck
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Dr. Joseph D'Souza
Michelle Garvin

Denise Hollonbeck
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Milton Shaw

CHANCELLOR

Donald S. Doucette, Ph. D.

The Honorable Anthony R. Fox
U. S. Department of Transportation
1200 Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Honorable Fox:

Please accept this letter of support from Eastern Iowa Community Colleges for the TIGER grant application being submitted on behalf of the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation.

The Upper Midwest Transportation Hub will enhance the safe, reliable, efficient and cost effective transportation of goods; reduce transportation costs for intermodal shipments; increase markets for the multi-state region's products and encourage competitive pricing; facilitate the growth of exports in manufactured products and agricultural goods; encourage regional growth in warehousing and distribution centers; among other benefits.

As a community college district, we are supportive of this grant proposal to develop an independent, full service intermodal container facility for the transfer of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers as it will retain businesses in the community that need intermodal services.

Sincerely,



Donald Doucette, Chancellor

IACCT

IOWA ASSOCIATION of COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

855 East Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309

Phone: 515.282.4692
Fax: 515.282.3743

Area I
Northeast Iowa
Community College

June 29, 2015

Area II
North Iowa Area
Community College

Area III
Iowa Lakes
Community College

Area IV
Northwest Iowa
Community College

Area V
Iowa Central
Community College

Area VI
Iowa Valley
Community College
District

Area VII
Hawkeye
Community College

Area IX
Eastern Iowa
Community Colleges

Area X
Kirkwood
Community College

Area XI
Des Moines Area
Community College

Area XII
Western Iowa Tech
Community College

Area XIII
Iowa Western
Community College

Area XIV
Southwestern
Community College

Area XV
Indian Hills
Community College

Area XVI
Southeastern
Community College

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Upper Midwest Transportation Hub TIGER VI Grant Application.

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Iowa's Community Colleges strongly support access for agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and similar businesses to expand distribution of their product and ease acquisition of resources. Such access creates jobs which provide opportunities for increased permanent population in the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub service area.

An increase in jobs and population grow Iowa's economy as well as those on the supply chain of the businesses served by the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub. Iowa's Community Colleges are the workforce trainer of Iowa. The Community Colleges in the region, particularly North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC), stand ready to provide the worker training/career education that will assist the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub, the new residents, the current businesses, and the additional businesses created as a result of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub.

Iowa's Community College urge you to approve the Iowa Department of Iowa's Upper Midwest Transportation Hub TIGER VI Grant Application for the economic benefit the nation as well as a valued Midwest region.

Sincerely,



MJ Dolan
Executive Director

CC: Iowa Northern Railway Company
305 2nd Street SE, Suite 400
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
dsabin@iowanorthern.com

CC: Iowa Department of Transportation
Office of Rail Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010
Diane.Mccauley@dot.iowa.gov

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the Iowa DOT TIGER grant application. This investment will help us transport Ag and bio products out of the recently developed Webster County Iowa AG-Industrial Center, "Iowa's Crossroads of Global Innovation".

The Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation are partnering to submit a TIGER grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH). In conjunction with this application, UMTH is also pursuing private equity funding for the development of the facility. Identifying the interest of potential users of UMTH is important, as well as supporters of this major economic development initiative.

Enhancing safe, reliable, efficient and cost effective transportation of goods both in and out of the region, this Manly, IA hub will keep the upper Midwest in the forefront of global trade for decades to come. This has significant impact on economic development and business retention for our region. With the application being submitted June 3, we need your personal letter of support as soon as possible.

A successful TIGER grant for the UMTH will develop an independent, full service intermodal container facility for the transfer of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers from truck to rail and rail to truck. This development will serve customers in an approximate 150 mile radius in north central Iowa and southern Minnesota.

The region is currently at a disadvantage in attracting and keeping businesses that need intermodal services. Now, many Iowa and southern Minnesota shippers requiring intermodal service typically truck commodities to intermodal centers in Chicago, Kansas City, Council Bluffs (Iowa's *only* intermodal center) or Minneapolis (existing intermodal centers have limited routing options) where their products enter the national rail system.

Many businesses in the region needing intermodal service experience higher transportation costs, making them less competitive due to the additional truck miles to a full service intermodal facility. Businesses with intermodal needs (warehousing, distribution, manufacturing, and many others) are less likely to consider this area as a future location. Or, as shipping costs rise, existing businesses may seek locations with more comprehensive or cost effective transportation option. Additionally, this region's abundant food and agricultural products increasingly require sealed containers to preserve a good product or ingredient's source or genetic identity.

The capacity of the trucking industry is currently constrained and expected to become more critical, due to shortages of qualified drivers and restrictions on hours of service. Continued increases in trucking costs and reductions in available trucking services will drive shippers to reduce long-haul trucking and more extensively use truck/rail intermodal services.

Benefits of the project:

- Reduces transportation costs for intermodal shipments, increasing profitability for regional producers.
- Increases available markets for the multi-state region's products and encourages competitive pricing because of the multiple rail connections at or near the Manly, IA location.
- Facilitates the growth of exports in manufactured products and agricultural goods such as from equipment, dried distiller's grain and identity-preserved grains.
- Encourages regional growth in warehousing and distribution centers where intermodal service is critical.
- Mitigates an emerging trucking capacity shortfall and encourages more cooperation among trucking and rail firms to grow their business together.
- Provides "short Haul trucking options, which can reduce costs and provides employment option in the trucking industry that are more attractive to today's workforce by providing a better quality of life.
- Increase employment opportunities in rural area where well-paying job opportunities are limited.
- Saves fossil fuels, reduces emissions, and relieves highway congestion due to fewer tuck miles and more efficient rail miles.
- Locates an intermodal transfer facility at an existing logistics center where support services, a rail yard and some existing infrastructure can be used or repurposed, leveraging \$4.8 million in prior public investment and over \$25 million in prior private investment.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



James B. Kersten

Vice President, External Affairs and Government Relations

C: Daniel Sabin, President, Iowa Northern Railway
Paul Trambino, Director, Iowa DOT



June 5, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to you today on behalf of North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) in support of the TIGER Grant Application for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) at Manly, Iowa. Funding from this grant would allow the Manly, Iowa, hub to keep the upper Midwest in the forefront of global trade for years to come. It would enhance safe, reliable, efficient, and cost-effective transportation of goods both in and out of the region, and it would have a significant impact on economic development and business retention and attraction for our region.

NIACC has been working to provide programming that accommodates both the rail and trucking industry. We have a long history of providing CDL truck driver training, and recently started a Diesel Technology Program in response to the mechanical needs of both industries. In addition, we constructed a new \$1.5 million dollar Diesel Technology Center to support our commitment to the transportation industry in our region.

NIACC is proud to support this application, and we urge you to understand and endorse the outstanding benefits that approval of this application would provide to north central Iowa, southern Minnesota, and the Upper Midwest as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven D. Schulz
President

SDS/rls

pc Iowa Department of Transportation
Iowa Northern Railway Company



June 4, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Honorable Anthony R. Foxx:

I am writing in support of Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation's TIGER grant application for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa. The TIGER grant for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub will develop an independent, full service intermodal container facility for the transfer of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers from truck to rail and rail to truck. This development will serve customers in an approximately 150 mile radius of north central Iowa and southern Minnesota.

Northeast Iowa Community College's district office is located in Calmar, Iowa and we serve the surrounding eight county area which is heavy in the areas of agriculture and manufacturing. This project will enhance safe, reliable, efficient and cost effective transportation which is essential for our economy to retain and expand businesses in our district.

We look forward to seeing the following benefits of the project:

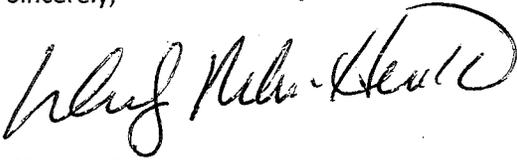
- Reduces transportation costs for intermodal shipments, increasing profitability for regional producers.
- Increases available markets for the multi-state region's products and encourages competitive pricing because of the multiple rail connections at or near the Manly location.
- Facilitates the growth of exports in manufactured products and agricultural goods such as farm equipment, dried distiller's grain and identity-preserved grains.
- Encourages regional growth in warehousing and distribution centers where intermodal service is critical.
- Mitigates an emerging trucking capacity shortfall and encourages more cooperation among trucking and rail firms to grow their business together.
- Provides "short haul" trucking options, which can reduce costs and provides employment options in the trucking industry that are more attractive to today's workforce by providing a better quality of life.
- Increases employment opportunities in rural area where well-paying job opportunities are limited.

- Saves fossil fuels, reduces emissions and relieves highway congestion due to fewer truck miles and more efficient rail miles.
- Locates an intermodal transfer facility at an existing logistics center where support services, a rail yard and some existing infrastructure can be used or repurposed, leveraging \$4.8 million in prior public investment and over \$25 million in prior private investment.

I am happy to support Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation's application for the TIGER grant. If you have any questions, you can reach me in the office at 563-562-3263, extension 221 or via email at mihm-heroldw@nicc.edu.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy Mihm-Herold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Wendy Mihm-Herold, Ph.D.
Vice President Business and Community Solutions

kak

cc: Iowa Northern Railway Company



Northwest Iowa
Community College

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Alethea F. Stubbe

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Honorable Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff of Northwest Iowa Community College this letter serves as our support for the TIGER grant for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, IA.

Our rural area would definitely benefit from this project which would keep the Midwest in the forefront of global trade, a necessity for economic development in our region. We are within a "short haul" area of the proposed location at Manly. Northwest Iowa Community College offers CDL training, Truck & Diesel Technology, and other quality technical programs that produce the highly skilled workforce so desperately needed. This project, if funded, may increase employment opportunities for our students in this region.

- *Encourages regional growth in warehousing and distribution centers where intermodal service is critical.*
- *Mitigates an emerging trucking capacity shortfall and encourages more cooperation among trucking and rail firms to grow their business together.*
- *Provides "short haul" trucking options, which can reduce costs and provides employment options in the trucking industry that are more attractive to today's workforce by providing a better quality of life.*
- *Increase employment opportunities in rural areas where well-paying job opportunities are limited.*
- *Facilitates the growth of exports in manufactured products and agricultural goods such as farm equipment, dried distiller's grain and identity-preserved grains.*

If I can provide you with additional information regarding Northwest Iowa Community College, do not hesitate to contact me at 712.324.5061, Ext. 166, or aletheas@nwicc.edu.

Sincerely,

Alethea F. Stubbe, Ph.D.

Alethea F. Stubbe, Ph.D.
President, Northwest Iowa Community College

AS/dk

cc: Iowa Department of Transportation
Iowa Northern Railway Company

Trade organizations



**IOWA ASSOCIATION OF
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

The Voice of Iowa Business Since 1903.

June 3, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Upper Midwest Transportation Hub Grant Application

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry and the 1,500 companies that comprise our membership, I write in strong support of the Manly, Iowa, Upper Midwest Transportation Hub. The UMTH is the subject of an Iowa DOT grant application under TIGER VII.

The proposed investment will strengthen the market access and transportation options for a full range of businesses in this region and the Upper Midwest. At ABI, our interest lies in the economic competitiveness of industries in our region (notable for farm production and food processing), but also supporting a diverse manufacturing sector and high technology presence in energy and other technologies. To a large extent, the area has built a vibrant economy on export markets. The Manly facility would for the first time provide a direct rail access for containerized goods to the major Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, via the Iowa Northern and the Union Pacific, and entry onto domestic container corridors to all parts of the nation. Current logistics patterns require an expensive and often indirect truck haul to Chicago, the Twin Cities, or Kansas City to reach an intermodal terminal, presenting a significant barrier to the competitiveness of businesses with a national and international reach.

Approval of this grant will enhance the capacity and efficiency of our transportation infrastructure that will grow our presence in new markets and bolster the entire regional and U.S. economy. We ask that you give positive consideration to this notable addition to the integrated freight transportation network that we are all working for.

Sincerely,

Michael Ralston
President

cc: Iowa Northern Railway Company
305 2nd Street SE, Suite 400
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
Dsabin@iowanorthern.com

cc: Iowa Department of Transportation
Office of Rail Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010
Diane.Mccauley@dot.iowa.gov



360 SE Delaware Avenue | Ankeny, Iowa 50021
515.963.0606 | F: 515.963.4010
iowaconcretepaving.org



380 SE Delaware Avenue | Ankeny, Iowa 50021
515.965.4575 | F: 515.963.4010
iowareadymix.org

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the ready mixed concrete and concrete paving industries of Iowa, I am writing to encourage favorable consideration of a TIGER grant application submitted by the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) located near Manly, Iowa. This important investment in our region's transportation infrastructure will provide significant, positive impact on the timely, economical, and efficient transportation of goods in and out of northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota. It will provide strong impetus for the attraction and retention of business in an area of both states that provides critical agricultural and manufactured goods.

The proposed UMTH will be highly important to the ready mixed concrete and concrete pavement industries as both an opportunity for new construction jobs and projects, and the potential for enhanced shipment of construction critical products and material components in and out of the region for our cement companies, ready mixed concrete suppliers, and concrete paving contractors.

The UMTH positions an intermodal transfer facility at an existing logistics center where support services, a rail yard, and existing infrastructure can be used or repurposed, leveraging an estimated \$4.8 million in prior public investment and over \$25 million in prior private investment.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice our support for an important transportation investment for the taxpayers of Iowa and Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Gordon L. Smith, P.E.
ICPA President
IRMCA Executive Director

cc: Iowa DOT Office of Rail Transportation
Iowa Northern Railway Company

Iowa Motor Truck Association

June 6, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

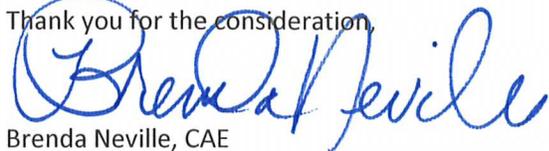
The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) have submitted a TIGER grant application for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) at Manly, Iowa. This application will provide a key component to bring competitive logistical options to a large region of 7 million citizens that lack appropriate intermodal service. Current intermodal service to Minneapolis provides access to the Pacific Northwest and Canadian ports, but not to the other key transportation regions of North America. Any other intermodal access requires expensive dray moves to intermodal facilities in Chicago, which results in a far greater cost to shippers to the Northern half of Iowa and Southern third of Minnesota.

UMTH would provide a mechanism for the trucking industry to join forces with the rail industry to establish badly needed service products to an area of growing volumes, primarily manufacturing, agricultural and food products. The trucking industry faces continual challenges in higher costs and an ongoing shortage of qualified drivers to meet the long-haul demands of shipping in this region. UMTH would allow the trucking industry to grow; by increasing the number of regional truck moves to service this region from the Manly, Iowa area. Attracting drivers with more regular hours and shorter runs will have a major impact in keeping our industry and the industries we serve more competitive. It may, in fact, be one of the few options we have left to enhance our participation in the growing needs of logistics in this region.

The efforts to develop UMTH will include serious participation from many groups, but tapping the strengths of both the trucking industry and the rail industry together will strengthen the states and communities within a 150 mile radius of Manly and beyond.

IMTA strongly supports this effort and urge you to consider and approve the outstanding benefits that this application will provide to the Upper Midwest and the country as a whole.

Thank you for the consideration.



Brenda Neville, CAE

President & CEO

Iowa Motor Truck Association

717 E. Court Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515-244-5193
fax: 515-244-2204

e-mail: imta@iowamotortruck.com
www.iowamotortruck.com



June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) offers this letter in support of the TIGER Grant Application to establish an Upper Midwest Transportation Hub to be located at Manly, Iowa. A successful TIGER grant for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub will develop a full service intermodal container facility for handling and trans-loading (filling on-site) of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers. This development will serve customers in an approximate 150 mile radius in north central Iowa and south central Minnesota.

In 2014, the flow of the Cochin pipeline was reversed and now propane is no longer transported to Iowa or Minnesota via the Cochin Pipeline. The area designated for the Hub will be a great location for propane to be delivered by rail and then transported by trucks to customers for home heating and agricultural purposes. In so doing, it will facilitate a more accessible and timely delivery of propane, especially during periods of peak demand.

The capacity of the trucking industry is currently constrained and expected to become more critical, due to shortages of qualified drivers and restrictions on hours of service. Continued increases in trucking costs and reductions in available trucking services will drive shippers to reduce long-haul trucking and more extensively use truck/rail intermodal services.

The benefits of this project are that it will:

- Lessen the effects of the Cochin Pipeline reversal and reduce the need for local propane marketers to travel long distances to obtain propane supply during critical demand periods, thereby minimizing the impact on other regions of the country.
- Mitigate an emerging trucking capacity shortfall and encourage more cooperation among trucking and rail firms to grow their business together.
- Provide "short haul" trucking options, which can reduce costs and provide employment options in the trucking industry that are more attractive to today's workforce.

NPGA strongly supports this effort and we would appreciate your consideration of the TIGER Grant. It will have a tremendous impact on the overall future growth and stability of the economy in Iowa and Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Caldara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael A. Caldara
Vice-President, Regulatory and Technical Services



**SOY TRANSPORTATION
COALITION**

1255 SW Prairie Trail Parkway // Ankeny, Iowa 50023
Phone (515) 727-0665 // FAX (515) 251-8657 // www.soytransportation.org

June 5, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Soy Transportation Coalition is pleased to offer its support for the Iowa and Minnesota Department of Transportation's application for a TIGER Grant for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH). We are hopeful the proposal will receive thorough consideration.

As an organization funded by and led by soybean farmers, the Soy Transportation Coalition encourages any investment or development that will result in a more cost effective and reliable delivery of soybeans and soy products. We therefore are very supportive of the Iowa and Minnesota Department of Transportation's efforts to develop an independent, full service intermodal container facility for the transfer of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers.

Our nation's transportation infrastructure is not simply a contributing factor to the success of U.S. soybean farmers, it is a dominant one. Other countries can produce soybeans at a comparable price. However, it has been and continues to be the ability to deliver those soybeans to our customers in a cost-effective manner that helps U.S. soybean farmers maintain a competitive advantage. Presently, many Iowa and southern Minnesota shippers requiring intermodal service must truck commodities to distant intermodal centers in Chicago, Kansas City, Council Bluffs, or Minneapolis in order to access the rail system. The proposed Upper Midwest Transportation Hub will allow rural areas producing significant volumes of agricultural products to have more efficient access to transportation and, as a result, the global economy.

Each year, over half of U.S. soybeans are purchased and consumed by international customers. Therefore, to remain profitable, America's soybean farmers must not only produce abundant supply and promote robust demand, there must be sufficient connectivity between supply and demand. The proposed UMTH is designed to enhance this connectivity.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to monitoring and assisting this project as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

Mike Steenhoek, Executive Director
Soy Transportation Coalition

Funded in part by the soybean checkoff

Businesses



June 1, 2015

Iowa Department of Transportation
Office of Rail Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Director:

3M operates a large finished goods distribution center in northern Iowa. I'm writing to ask for your support in approving the Tiger Grant Application for an Upper Midwest Transportation Hub to be located in Manly, IA.

Having additional routing options for our international and domestic intermodal is critical in providing better service and lower cost. Currently our intermodal traffic is handled in Chicago, Minneapolis, or Kansas City. These "last mile" deliveries can be very expensive and add additional time to the process. Having an intermodal terminal within 30 miles will definitely help us to be more competitive.

In addition, the entire region is at a disadvantage in attracting businesses that require intermodal service. I support the economic growth opportunities that would result from this regional terminal.

Your support of this Tiger Grant Application is appreciated. It will have a great impact on the future growth and stability of the economy in this region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Roisen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

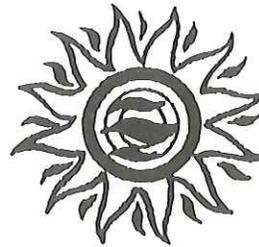
John Roisen
Plant Manager
641-585-2700

3M Distribution Center
806 W Crystal Lake Road
Forest City, IA 50436

Cc: Iowa Northern Railway Company
305 2nd Street SE Suite 400
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

A to Z Drying, Inc.

1000 Wallace Road, P.O. Box 180, Osage, IA 50461-0180
Phone (641)732-5805 Fax (641)732-4619



The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 3, 2015

Dear Mr. Foxx:

A to Z Drying, Inc. is expressing support in regards to the “Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery” grant to assist in funding the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub in Manly, Iowa.

A to Z Drying, Inc. has been a third party manufacturer in the agricultural industry since 1973. A to Z, located in northern Iowa, coordinates shipping for clients that requires product to be sent throughout the world. Currently, over 50% of the shipments originating from A to Z are transported to international destinations.

A to Z Drying’s clients are competing on a global scale, thus transportation costs and timeliness of shipments are key factors. A to Z Drying currently employs over 100 full time employees. The transportation hub being proposed in Manly, IA would not only aid in keeping these existing jobs, but provide more opportunities for employment. A to Z Drying, Inc. is requesting your backing of this key funding to establish an intermodal hub in Manly, IA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Penfold".

Jason Penfold
President
A to Z Drying, Inc.
1000 Wallace Road
Osage, IA 50461
641-732-5805
jpenfold@atozdrying.com

BAKKE & GORDON LAW OFFICES
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

150 North Clark Street
Forest City, IA 50436-1643
Telephone: 641-585-2530
Fax: 641-585-2023

Steven R. Bakke

Email: bakkelaw@wctatel.net

Andrew J. Gordon

Email: ajgbakkelaw@wctatel.net

July 7, 2015

Daniel R. Sabin, President
Iowa Northern Railway Company
Paramount Theatre Building
305 Second Street SE, Suite 400
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

RE: TIGER Grant

Dear Mr. Sabin:

I would like to offer a letter of support for the TIGER Grant. I think it is important that we continue to expand our rail service in the North Iowa area. It is no secret that reliable sufficient and cost effective transportation of goods both in and out of this region is important. The North Central Iowa area is one of the premiere corn and soybean growing areas in the world and there is no doubt the most efficient way to ship those goods is by train.

In addition, to be able to have rail service in the North Central Iowa area because of Winnebago Industries, Inc. and 3M Distribution and other such industries in the smaller communities all across North Central Iowa and South Central Minnesota is very important. Please accept this as a letter of support for the TIGER Grant.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,



Steven R. Bakke

SRB/jjd



1946 Harvest Avenue
Fort Dodge IA, 50501

June 02, 2015

Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Honorable Mr. Foxx,

This missive is drafted in support of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) TIGER grant application. Thank you for taking the time to review this correspondence.

As you know, The Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation are jointly submitting a grant application to assist in further developing reliable, efficient, and cost effective transportation of goods in and out of our region. The development that would be supported by the TIGER grant would allow businesses such as ours to lower costs and remain competitive in challenging markets. In addition, the UMTH would reduce operational costs thereby improving chances for new business developments in the region. Further, I believe the more efficient and cost effective transportation provided by the UMTH would prevent business from seeking alternate locations outside our region because it would not make transportation costs a limiting factor in doing business.

CJ Bio America is hopeful that you will see the great opportunities that can be provided by the UMTH and the future opportunities further investment can provide. Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jung T. Nam'.

Jung Tak (J.T.) Nam
President/CEO
CJ Bio America



Corn Belt Power Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

June 1, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER grant application for Upper Midwest Transportation Hub

Dear Mr. Foxx:

Corn Belt Power Cooperative supports the TIGER grant application and the development of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub located at Manly, Iowa. The development of this intermodal container facility will provide opportunities for both domestic and international shipping and continued economic growth throughout the region.

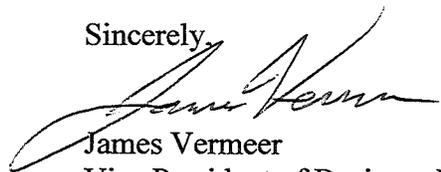
The region is at a disadvantage in attracting and keeping business and industry that need adequate transportation services. The benefits of this facility will help to:

- 1) Reduce transportation costs for intermodal shipments and increase profitability for regional producers.
- 2) Increases available markets for the multi-state region.
- 3) Facilitates the growth on exporting manufactured goods.
- 4) Encourages regional growth in warehousing and distribution.
- 5) Mitigates an emerging trucking capacity shortfall and encourages more cooperation among the trucking and rail firms to grow their business together.

As a rural electric cooperative, we work hard to locate and expand business within the rural areas and we look forward to the day when we have the same opportunities to access the markets similar to the more metro areas throughout the country.

We greatly appreciate your consideration to support the approval of the TIGER grant application for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa.

Sincerely,



James Vermeer
Vice President of Business Development

cc: Iowa Department of Transportation
Iowa Northern Railway Company

CBJ

Corridor Business Journal

June 3, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Fox
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: TIGER Grant Application for Hub at Manly, IA

Dear Mr. Fox:

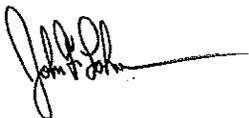
This letter is being written in support of the TIGER Grant for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, IA.

As the business journal that covers much of eastern Iowa, we take keen interest in supporting economic development activities that are beneficial to growing our regional economy and the overall economy in Iowa and the Midwest.

The need for an independent, full service intermodal container facility for the transfer of domestic and international shipping is something that could provide additional economic benefits to much of Iowa and southern Minnesota. Approval of this grant request would do just that.

We would encourage you to support this grant application. Thank you for your consideration of this important effort.

Sincerely,



John F. Lohman
CEO & Publisher

Cc: Iowa Department of Transportation



Cottingham & Butler

C&B Insurance | SISCO | HealthCorp | Safety Management

Established 1887

Cottingham & Butler
Corporate Headquarters
800 Main Street | P.O. Box 28
Dubuque, IA 52004-0028

(563) 587-5000
(800) 793-5235
Facs (563) 583-7339
www.CottinghamButler.com

June 1, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The purpose of this letter is to urge you to support the TIGER grant application for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH). In conjunction with that application UMTH is also pursuing private equity funding for the development of the facility.

Enhancing safe, reliable, efficient and cost-effective transportation of goods in and out of this region, will be a great asset to the upper Midwest in its efforts to develop a robust and healthy global trade for decades to come. This has a significant impact on our economic development and business retention in our region.

Sincerely,

John E. Butler
Executive Chairman
Cottingham & Butler
(563) 587-5213

CC: Iowa Dept. of Transportation, Office of Rail Transportation

JEB:jkb



2010 Kenwood Ave.
PO Box 430
New Hampton, IA 50659
641-394-6789

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Honorable Anthony R. Foxx,

I am writing to show my strong support for the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportations TIGER Grant request of \$7,100,000 for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, IA.

Enhancing safe, reliable, efficient and cost effective transportation of goods both in and out of the region, this Manly, Iowa hub will keep the Upper Midwest in the forefront of global trade for years to come. This will have a significant impact on economic development and business retention for our area.

This project will reduce transportation costs for intermodal shipments, increasing profitability for regional producers, provide "short haul" trucking options, which can reduce costs and provides employment options in the trucking industry that are more attractive to today's workforce by providing a better quality of life, and increase employment opportunities in rural areas where well-paying job opportunities are limited.

This project will result in immediate and long term economic benefits to the Upper Midwest region. I urge your close and careful consideration to providing a TIGER Grant to assist the DOT with this important economic development initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harlan Taylor".

Harlan Taylor
Vice-President
Croell Redi-Mix, Inc.

June 10, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa
Tiger Grant Application
Lead Applicant: Iowa Department of Transportation
Partnering Agency: Minnesota Department of Transportation
Grant Request: \$7,100,000**

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing in strong support of the so-called "Tiger Grant Application" for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa (hereinafter "Manly Hub") in the amount of \$7,100,000.

It is a multi-benefit package in that it (1) promotes economic development in that area of the country in need of jobs; (2) involves investment in a rural area, again which is needed; (3) helps by rebuilding our national infrastructure; and (4) constitutes more efficient use of valuable resources.

In addition, there are a number of other favorable factors for support of this Application.

1. **Reduction of Expenses** - This project has the potential of reducing transportation costs for all who participate in it.
2. **Creates Potential** - For both exploring out of Iowa and out of the country and also facilitates the growth of manufacturing as well as regional growth and development of warehouse distribution centers by having intermodal service.

The proposed site already has the makings of an excellent Hub Facility in that Manly was a major vision point on the old Rock Island Line's railroad and had tracks going in several directions.

In summary, this is an exciting opportunity for a government/private partnership project that has the potential of resulting in substantial job growth, income development and a more efficient and responsive transportation operation for all goods being transported by rail.

#2606092
DAVIS BROWN KOEHN SHORS & ROBERTS P.C.

June 10, 2015
Page 2

Thank you in advance for your consideration. It is the hope of many who support this project that you will find it possible provide the grant being sought in the amount of \$7,100,000. This grant should be extremely valuable to the entire region which it is intended to serve.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen W. Roberts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "W".

Stephen W. Roberts

cc: Iowa Department of Transportation
Iowa Northern Railway Company

DENSO

June 5, 2015

Re: TIGER Grant / UMTH

Hello Honorable Mr. Anthony R Fox

We here at Denso Manufacturing, Iowa Plant fully support the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub initiative at Manly, Iowa!

We currently receive approximately 340 containers per year from our UK facility using ports in Canada, New York and Norfolk. Currently all of our containers are routed through Chicago.

This Iowa hub would greatly benefit our plant in multiple ways.

Kind Regards,



Deborah Town

Materials & Logistics Leader

DENSO Iowa Plant | 11323 Meredith Drive | Urbandale | Iowa | USA | 50322

☎ +1 (515) 954-3914

✉ Deborah_town@denso-diam.com

CC: Iowa Department of Transportation



Global Headquarters
P.O. Box 74570 | Cedar Rapids, IA 52407-4570 | USA
TF: 800.373.7234 | Phone: +1.319.366.0745 | FAX: +1.319.366.6333
diamondv@diamondv.com | diamondv.com

June 2, 2015

Iowa Northern Railway Company
305 2nd Street SE, Suite 400
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Hello:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the proposed Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) and equity funding for the development of the facility in Manly, Iowa.

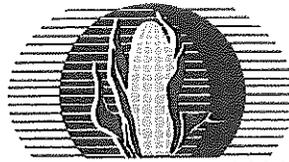
I believe that the proposed project will greatly benefit companies in the Midwest by offering cost effective shipping of goods, as well as beneficial options for the demanding area of transportation. Diamond V currently ships approximately 45% of our business via intermodal transportation. Therefore, the option of a Manly Hub would be valuable to our future success.

In conclusion, I look forward to watching this exciting development and the significant impact that it will have on economic development in the Midwest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Manternach".

Patrick Manternach
Director of Operations / Manufacturing



FARMERS COOP ASSOC.

Forest City • Leland • Kiester

406 E K Street • Forest City, Iowa 50436 • 641-585-2814 • Fax: 641-585-2052

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to lend my support to the proposed Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa, on behalf of the Farmers Coop Association.

The Farmers Coop Association works with a large number of North Iowa farmers and other professionals in the agricultural field. A common concern among many of these individuals is the increased cost of transportation of goods, largely related to the shortage of qualified drivers in the area. Due to the driver shortage, retainment of qualified individuals comes at a premium. As this shortage is only expected to increase over time, one can assume the cost of retaining qualified drivers will also increase. This increase will impact farmers, business owners, employees and consumers.

The installation of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub, will benefit North Iowa in many ways. It will reduce transportation costs, due to the multiple rail connections near the proposed Manly location. This in turn, will create a competitive market price, which will benefit area producers and consumers. Additionally, it may alleviate the trucking capacity shortfall and encourage cooperation among the trucking, rail and agricultural industries. Another benefit will be the increased employment opportunities and economic development.

In my opinion, the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly would be a huge benefit to the area and allow North Iowa to maintain its position, as a leader in the agricultural industry.

Sincerely,

Randy Broesder

The Farmers Bank

FARMERS TRUST & SAVINGS BANK

6/2/15

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re Support Letter for TIGER Grant for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub

Dear Honorable Foxx,

As a member of our local economic board, I continually see the need and demand from industry for rail transportation into and out of Iowa. Many times access to rail become the deciding factor whether they locate in Iowa or to some other state. For anyone looking to locate or expand in Iowa, transportation is one of their top 5 requirements.

I also recently heard the Director of the Iowa DOT speak at a banker gathering, and he explained all the addition costs to Iowa businesses for transporting good into and out of Iowa, due to the lack of rail transportation and without a facility like the proposed hub. A transportation hub would greatly help Iowa businesses reduce their transportation costs, and make Iowa a more competitive state.

We also know that rail can move goods at a much lower cost per mile than trucks. With truck damage to our highways, and high fuel usage for truck transportation, I truly support the hub project and I ask for your support.

Thanks for your consideration

Sincerely,



David W. Woodcock
Pres / CEO
Farmers Trust and Savings Bank
Spencer, Iowa

Cc: ✓ Iowa DOT
Iowa Northern Railway Company



Gold-Eagle Cooperative

415 North Locust
P.O. Box 280
Goldfield, IA 50542

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 4, 2015

Secretary Foxx,

The Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation are partnering to submit a TIGER grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) in Manly, Iowa. A transportation hub in this region would be a significant economic boost to the economies of north central Iowa and Southern Minnesota.

The ability to receive and ship containers in this region would increase our market and customer access. This transportation hub is within the ethanol production center off the U.S. We have an ethanol plant within 70 miles of Manly, Iowa. Our plant, CORN, LP is locally owned by investors within a 45 mile area. We would welcome the opportunity to load and ship containers to markets through-out the world. The ability to economically access more markets will improve the profit of our ethanol plant and have a positive impact on our rural communities and schools.

I would submit to you that this transportation hub will be a win-win investment for all. Access to more markets will provide increased profitability. Increased profitability will be shared with investors and employees. These new dollars will be turned many times within the communities and create investment in the infrastructure and new jobs.

Secretary Foxx I urge the Department of Transportation to respond favorably to the request for this TIGER grant.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Duane R. Madoerin
Merchandising Manager
Gold-Eagle Cooperative / CORN, LP
Goldfield, IA 50542
515-825-3161
dmadoerin@goldeaglecoop.com

Phone: (515) 825-3161
Fax: (515) 825-3732



The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 3, 2015

Dear Mr. Foxx:

I am the Supply Chain Manager for Graham Wood Doors in Mason City, IA. I have worked in the manufacturing industry for 12 years, all of which have been in the central and north Central areas of Iowa. I would like to express my support for additional rail, intermodal, and logistics capabilities in northern Iowa where there is an abundance of manufacturing companies such as Curries, Kraft, Winnebago, Sukup, Iowa Mold Tooling, Stellar, Fox River, etc. Given my experience in Supply Chain, Purchasing, and Transportation, I can speak to disadvantages we can find ourselves in compared to competitors in other areas of the country due to increased transportation costs and the challenges of having all of these companies spread across a 100+ mile radius. Opportunities to utilize short haul carriers from an intermodal hub would help provide more reliable delivery schedules at lower costs which will allow manufacturers to remain competitive not just domestically but globally as well.

Additionally, given the shortage of truck drivers in the United States, the value and importance of intermodal and rail shipments are only going to become more critical. Being able to move the kinds of volumes that can be moved over the railroad helps reduce emissions, reduces congestion, eliminates wear and tear on our deteriorating highways, and helps keep families safe by reducing the number of large trucks on the highway. Hours of service restrictions are making it more difficult for trucking companies to make money moving all of the loads that are out there and either the trucking company and drivers suffer or the shipper and receiver suffer, passing on costs to the consumer.

I fully support this grant application and believe this is a necessary project for this area of the country, not only for the area manufacturing companies but also for all the workers and local businesses supported by these companies and their workforces. Please pass along my support to all of the necessary parties, I'm looking forward to seeing this project move forward!

Thank you,



Andy Young
Supply Chain Manager

O: 641-494-2826

C: 641-530-7356

Andy.young@assaabloy.com

CC: Iowa DOT, Iowa Northern Railway Company

Graham Wood Doors
2510 19th St. SW • Mason City, IA 50401
Website: www.grahamdoors.com

ASSA ABLOY, the global leader in door opening solutions



JOHN DEERE

Deere & Company World Headquarters
One John Deere Place, Moline, IL 61265 USA
Phone: (309) 765-6638 Fax: (309) 749-0235
E-mail: RatzburgWilliamA@JohnDeere.com

William A. Ratzburg
Director, Economic & Community Development
Corporate Citizenship Center of Excellence

June 4, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Upper Midwest Transportation Hub TIGER VI Grant Application

Dear Mr. Secretary:

John Deere would like to express its support for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) in Manly, Iowa which is the subject of an Iowa DOT grant application under TIGER VI.

Deere & Company is a world leader in providing advanced products and services and is committed to the success of customers whose work is linked to the land - those who cultivate, harvest, transform, enrich and build upon the land to meet the world's dramatically increasing need for food, fuel, shelter and infrastructure.

The proposed UMTH in Manly would strengthen market access and transportation options for a full range of businesses in the upper Midwest region. John Deere has several large manufacturing facilities in Iowa within 150 miles of the proposed UMTH. Current logistics patterns to and from our factories require costly and often indirect truck haul to Chicago, the Twin Cities, or Kansas City to reach an intermodal terminal, presenting a barrier to the competitiveness of businesses with a national and international reach.

Additionally, the ability of our customers to expeditiously ship harvested commodities to feed a growing world can be impeded by the lack of intermodal transport and capacity in the upper Midwest region. Approval of a TIGER grant for the UMTH would provide a significant funding boost and help bring a competitive logistical option to the region. The UMTH would also support further economic development and job creation.

In closing, we ask that you give positive consideration to the TIGER Grant Application from Iowa DOT for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa, which could be a notable addition to the integrated freight transportation network in the United States.

Sincerely,

William A. Ratzburg

HENKEL

Construction Company

Building Trust for Over a Century

208 East State Street

Mason City, IA 50401

T: 641-423-5674

F: 641-423-9244

www.henkelconstruction.com

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Foxx:

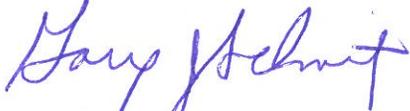
Our company is supportive of the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation partnering for the TIGER grant application. Having safe, reliable, efficient and cost effective transportation is important for our local communities and this grant will further that cause. If this grant is awarded for the Manly hub, it will have a significant positive impact for our region.

We sincerely hope you the U.S. Department of Transportation awards this TIGER grant to the north Iowa community.

Sincerely,

HENKEL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

By



Gary J. Schmit, President

jlg

cc: Iowa Department of Transportation
Office of Rail Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Iowa Northern Railway Company
305 2nd Street SE, Suite 400
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401



The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter as a showing of our full support of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub project at Manly, IA. We are a retail/wholesale fertilizer, chemical, and LP Gas Company located in south central Minnesota, just north of Interstate #90 and 10 miles west of Interstate #35, by Alden, MN. We are a private carrier for most of our products (mainly NH₃, LP, and liquid fertilizer), so our trucks travel within the 150 mile radius of this proposed intermodal hub.

We strongly agree with the benefits this project will bring to our region and are excited to be able to take full advantage of the cost savings and growth potential in our business, which this intermodal center would present to us. We have already been experiencing the problems of a shortage of qualified truck drivers and feel this project would greatly improve our ability to entice more of the experienced qualified drivers due to the shorter haul trucking options this hub would provide. We also have rail access at our facility, so the rail delivery options of our products would be enhanced, thus helping to reduce our costs in the transportation of products and giving us more potential to grow and broaden our business services to the large agricultural region we currently and potentially may service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kevin Reed'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Kevin Reed,
Owner/Manager
Hi-Yield Products, Inc.
23282 620th Ave
Alden, MN 56009



Jeffrey A. Grev
Vice President
Legislative Affairs

Hormel Foods Corporation
1 Hormel Place
Austin, MN 55912-3680
Phone 507 437 5411
Fax 507 437 5135
E-Mail jagrev@hormel.com

June 18, 2015

Iowa Department of Transportation
Office of Rail Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

RE: **Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, IA**
TIGER Grant Application
Lead Applicant: Iowa Department of Transportation
Partnering Agency: Minnesota Department of Transportation
Grant Request: \$7,100,000

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing on behalf of the Hormel Foods Corporation to express our support for the TIGER Grant that will be used to contribute to the effort to install an intermodal transportation hub in place in Manly, Iowa. My understanding is that sufficient private funding in the \$9-10 million ranges has been secured to cover the remainder of the cost of the project.

We would expect that there will be opportunities to utilize the UMTH located at Manly, Iowa to support shipments from some of our key Hormel facilities in Southern Minnesota and Iowa.

The approval of this grant for the UMTH will develop an independent, full service intermodal container facility for the transfer of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers from truck to rail and rail to truck. This development will serve customers such as Hormel Foods in an approximate 150 mile radius in north central Iowa and southern Minnesota.

This region is currently at a disadvantage in attracting and keeping businesses that need intermodal services. Now, many Iowa and southern Minnesota shippers requiring intermodal service typically truck commodities to intermodal centers in Chicago, Kansas City, Council Bluffs (Iowa's *only* intermodal center) or Minneapolis (existing intermodal centers have limited routing options) where their products enter the national rail system.

Many businesses in the region needing intermodal service experience higher transportation costs, making them less competitive due to the additional truck miles to a full service intermodal facility. As shipping costs rise, existing businesses may seek

locations with more comprehensive or cost effective transportation options. Additionally, this region's abundant food and agricultural products increasingly require sealed containers to preserve a food product or ingredient's source or genetic identity.

The capacity of the trucking industry is currently constrained and expected to become more critical, due to shortages of qualified drivers and restrictions on hours of service. Continued increases in trucking costs and reductions in available trucking services will drive shippers to reduce long-haul trucking and more extensively use truck/rail intermodal services.

In closing, we would appreciate the Transportation Departments' approval of this TIGER grant and we appreciate your time and attention to consider this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Grev". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

Jeff Grev
Vice President of Legislative Affairs
Hormel Foods Corporation



KAHLER AUTOMATION

Friday, June 26, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Kahler Automation is made up of a team of engineers, panel fabricators and support technicians that design, implement and support solutions to problems faced by many different industries. Kahler Automation's experience in designing systems for fertilizer, chemicals, sand and grain for customers would benefit from an intermodal transfer facility in our region.

Kahler Automation has automated all types of facilities located all over the continental United States, Canada, and overseas that utilize truck, rail, and barge for receiving and loading material. We often supply our products installed in a shipping containers ready to be put in place with minimal on site construction thus speeding up our customers installation of power and control systems.

Kahler Automation strongly supports this TIGER grant application as it will improve our abilities to ship our intermodal containers efficiently and effectively. This grant will assist this rural region to keep local businesses thriving while increasing the probability of attracting new businesses. The reasons for this is the reduction in transportation costs, increase available markets for businesses in this area, increase imports and exports from this area, and collaboration among businesses.

Please support this TIGER grant application for the partnership between Iowa and Minnesota Department of Transportations. Approval of this TIGER grant for the UMTH grant will renovate the transportation landscape of the Upper Midwest while providing economic growth benefits to many in this our rural region.

Sincerely,



Mr. Wayne Kahler
President Kahler Automation



Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative

5695 REC Drive • PO Box 69 • Marion, IA 52302-0069 • Phone: 319-377-1587 or 1-800-332-5420 • Fax: 319-377-5875

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington D.C 20590

Re: TIGER grant award
Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH)

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative offers its support of the Iowa and Minnesota Department of Transportation application for Transportation Investment Generation Economic Recovery funding.

The proposed Manly, Iowa hub will help the Midwest region attract and keep businesses that need intermodal services. Transportation costs for intermodal services would be reduced for the region. Competition would be increase. The Manly hub would serve the region well in support of its manufactured and agricultural products. As a result of all these factors, the hub would be a significant contributor to economic development efforts in the region with increased employment opportunities in rural areas.

Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative believes TIGER funds used for this project would take advantage of an existing logistics center that has support services and a rail yard where existing infrastructure can be used or repurposed. Using the Manly hub would take advantage of previous public and private investments.

Thank you for consideration of TIGER funds for Upper Midwest Transportation Hub. It is a project that would have great benefit for the Midwest region.

Sincerely,

Kim R. Colberg, GM/CEO
Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative



Magna International, Incorporated
Office of Government Affairs

750 Tower Drive, Mail Code 7000
Troy, Michigan 48098
Tel: (248) 631-5330
www.magna.com

July 7, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, IA
TIGER Grant Application
Lead Applicant: Iowa Department of Transportation
Partnering Agency: Minnesota Department of Transportation
Grant Request: \$7,100,000

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing on behalf of Magna International, Inc. with facilities in Montezuma, Victor and Williamsburg Iowa to express our support for the TIGER Grant that will be used to contribute to the effort to install an intermodal transportation hub in place in Manly, Iowa. My understanding is that sufficient private funding in the \$9-10 million ranges has been secured to cover the remainder of the cost of the project. We would expect that there will be opportunities to utilize the UMTH located at Manly, Iowa to support shipments from some of our steel suppliers from the Detroit, MI area.

Magna is a leading global automotive supplier with 316 manufacturing operations and 87 product development, engineering and sales centers in 29 countries employing more than 133,000. Here in the United States Magna has 62 manufacturing facilities located in 13 states employing more than 22,000 American workers.

The approval of this grant for the UMTH will develop an independent, full service intermodal container facility for the transfer of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers from truck to rail and rail to truck. This development will serve customers such as Magna International in an approximate 150 mile radius in north central Iowa and southern Minnesota.

This region is currently at a disadvantage in attracting and keeping businesses that need intermodal services. Now, many Iowa and southern Minnesota shippers requiring intermodal service typically truck commodities to intermodal and consolidation centers in neighboring states such as Illinois, Missouri and Michigan.

Many businesses in the region needing intermodal service experience higher transportation costs, making them less competitive due to the additional truck miles to a full service intermodal facility. As shipping costs rise, existing businesses may seek locations with more comprehensive or cost effective transportation options.



Magna International, Incorporated
Office of Government Affairs

750 Tower Drive, Mail Code 7000

Troy, Michigan 48098

Tel: (248) 631-5330

www.magna.com

The capacity of the trucking industry is currently constrained and expected to become more critical, due to shortages of qualified drivers and restrictions on hours of service. Continued increases in trucking costs and reductions in available trucking services will drive shippers to reduce long-haul trucking and more extensively use truck/rail intermodal services.

In closing, we would appreciate the Transportation Departments' approval of this TIGER grant and we appreciate your time and attention to consider this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank W. Ervin III', written in a cursive style.

Frank W. Ervin III

Director, Government Affairs

Magna International, Inc.

We See More In Your Fields



June 3, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Foxx:

MaxYield Cooperative, headquartered in West Bend, IA, (MYC) is a 15 location grain elevator and farm supply cooperative. MYC locations are located in the northern Iowa geography from Spencer to Clear Lake. MYC provides grain marketing services and agronomy, seed, energy and feed products and services to approximately 2,000 farmer clients in this geography.

MYC is a rail grain shipper and a rail receiver of fertilizer products.

Today I write to kindly request your support for the TIGER Grant Application for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa. This TIGER Grant Application has been submitted for consideration by the Iowa Department of Transportation along with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

A successful TIGER grant for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly will develop an independent, full service intermodal container facility for the transfer of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers from truck to rail and rail to truck. This development will serve customers in an approximate 150 mile radius in north central Iowa and southern Minnesota. This geography service area would be totally inclusive of the entire MYC trade area.

This region is currently at a disadvantage in attracting and keeping businesses that need intermodal services. Now, many Iowa and southern Minnesota shippers requiring intermodal service typically truck commodities

to intermodal centers in Chicago, Kansas City, Council Bluffs (Iowa's only intermodal center) or Minneapolis (existing intermodal centers have limited routing options) where their products enter the national rail system.

Many businesses in the region needing intermodal service experience higher transportation costs making them less competitive due to the additional truck miles to a full service intermodal facility.

Businesses with intermodal needs (warehousing, distribution, manufacturing and many others) are less likely to consider this area as a future location. Or, as shipping costs rise, existing businesses may seek locations with more comprehensive or cost effective transportation options.

Additionally, this region's abundant food and agricultural products increasingly require sealed containers to preserve a food product or ingredient's source or genetic identity.

The capacity of the trucking industry is currently constrained and expected to become more critical due to shortages of qualified drivers and restrictions on hours of service. Continued increases in trucking costs and reductions in available trucking services will drive shippers to reduce long-haul trucking and more extensively use truck/rail intermodal services.

Benefits of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, Iowa include:

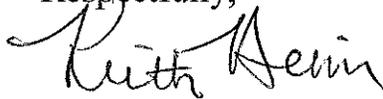
- Reduces transportation costs for intermodal shipments, increasing profitability for regional producers.
- Increases available markets for the multi-state region's products and encourages competitive pricing because of the multiple rail connections at or near the Manly, IA location.
- Facilitates the growth of exports in manufactured products and agricultural goods such as farm equipment, dried distiller's grain and identity-preserved grains.
- Encourages regional growth in warehousing and distribution centers where intermodal service is critical.
- Mitigates an emerging trucking capacity shortfall and encourages more cooperation among trucking and rail firms to grow their business together.
- Provides "short haul" trucking options which can reduce costs and provides employment options in the trucking industry that are more attractive to today's workforce by providing a better quality of life.
- Increase employment opportunities in a rural area where well-paying job opportunities are limited.
- Saves fossil fuels, reduces emissions and relieves highway congestion due to fewer truck miles and more efficient rail miles.

- Locates an intermodal transfer facility at an existing logistics center where support services, a rail yard and some existing infrastructure can be used or repurposed, leveraging \$4.8 million in prior public investment and over \$25 million in prior private investment.

For all these reasons, on behalf of MaxYield Cooperative and our 2,000 farmer clients, I enthusiastically ask that you give this TIGER Grant Application your most serious consideration.

Thank you in advance for your time and support of this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Heim". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Keith Heim

CEO

MaxYield Cooperative

kheim@maxyieldcooperative.com

Meadowland Soy

25333 710th Avenue

Grand Meadow, MN 55936

June 17, 2015

Mr. Anthony Fox, Secretary of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave SE

Washington, DC 20590

RE: Upper Midwest Transportation Hub Tiger VI Grant Application

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Meadowland Soy wishes to express its support for the Manly, Iowa, Upper Midwest Transportation Hub that is the subject of an Iowa DOT grant application under TIGER VI.

The proposed investment will strengthen the market access and transportation options for a full range of businesses in this region and the Upper Midwest. Meadowland Soy's interest lies in the economic competitiveness of industries in our region notable for its farm production and food processing. The Manly facility would provide a direct rail access for containerized goods to the major Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, via the Iowa Northern and the Union Pacific, and entry onto domestic container corridors to all parts of the nation. Current logistics patterns require an expensive and often indirect truck haul to Chicago, the Twin Cities, or Kansas City to reach an intermodal terminal, presenting a significant barrier to the competitiveness of businesses with a national and international reach.

This will make Meadowland Soy more competitive with other areas such as Canada and Chicago that have better freight rates than here in the Upper Midwest. Having a transportation hub in this area for containerized shipping will lower my cost of shipping my product to countries such as South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and other countries in SE Asia. We have a hard time competing with others in the market as our transportation cost is much higher even though we are geographically closer to the ports than many of our competitors.

Approval of this grant will enhance the capacity and efficiency of our transportation infrastructure that will grow our presence in new markets and bolster the entire regional and U. S. economy. We ask that you give positive consideration to this notable addition to the integrated freight transportation network we are all working for.

This is a very important investment for the Upper Midwest.

Please feel free to contact me on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lon Baldus

Meadowland Soy

25333 710th Avenue

Grand Meadow, MN 55936

meadowlandsoy@gmail.com 507-459-5151



June 3, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in support of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) in Manly, IA. Musco Lighting manufacturers product in Iowa for export throughout the world and we require safe and reliable intermodal transportation service in our region for the efficient and cost-effective delivery of such goods.

In addition to our business, we support this major economic development initiative to keep all businesses in our state and the Midwest region of the country in the forefront of global trade. This project will have significant positive impact on the retention and growth of businesses in the region.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this project,

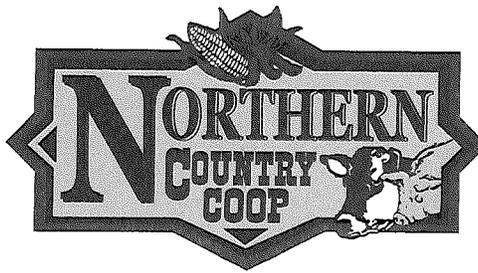
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. W. Yates", written over a horizontal line.

Douglas W. Yates
VP - Operations

cc: Iowa Department of Transportation
Office of Rail Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

cc: Daniel R. Sabin, President
Iowa Northern Railway Company
305 2nd Street SE, Suite 400
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Lumber Division (641) 710-2188
Toeterville, IA (641) 713-4598
Adams, MN (507) 582-3641
Brownsdale, MN (507) 567-2234
Alden, MN (507) 874-3421
Emmons, MN (507) 297-5412



Lansing, MN (507) 437-4696
Lyle, MN (507) 325-4668
Oakland, MN (507) 437-3219
Rose Creek, MN (507) 437-8244
Conger, MN (507) 265-3231
LeRoy, MN (507) 324-5242

P.O. Box 217, Stacyville, IA 50476-0217
(641) 710-2348

June 4, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr Foxx,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub being submitted to the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery by Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation.

Currently this region is at a disadvantage in attracting and keeping businesses that need intermodal services because of no nearby intermodal centers. Which causes many businesses in the region to experience higher transportation costs.

In conclusion , I fully support the efforts of the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation as they seek a grant for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery. Any new development that can increase employment opportunities in a rural area, as well as saves fossil fuels, reduced emissions and relieves highway congestion due to fewer truck miles and more efficient rail miles has to help the community at large.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Mauer".

Shawn Mauer
Grain Merchandiser

Northern Country Coop

203 East Spring St
Stacyville, IA 50476

Date: 5/28/2015

To: The Honorable Secretary Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

From: Steven E. Sukup –VP, CFO
Sukup Manufacturing Company
Sheffield, Iowa 50475

Subject: TIGER Grant – Upper Midwest Transportation Hub in Manly, Iowa

Mr. Foxx,

My name is Steve Sukup & I'm a family owner in Sukup Manufacturing Company, located in Sheffield, Iowa. Our core business is manufacturing agricultural storage and drying equipment, such as grain bins, hopper bins, fans, heaters, grain dryers & pre-engineered steel buildings. We've been in business since 1963 & currently employ near 550 people. We have six distribution centers, strategically located around the Midwest. I'm writing you today in support of awarding a TIGER Grant for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub in Manly, Iowa. This grant could have a great impact not only on my business, but on all manufacturers located in the upper Midwest. Annually, we go through well over 50,000 tons of steel coil in our manufacturing process. Getting these coils to our facility is very costly. Trucking is constantly an issue, storage is constantly an issue, & freight charges are through the roof. We currently rail a majority our coil into Minneapolis, Minnesota, & then have it hauled by truck back down to us. In many cases, our steel travels right on by us before it is trucked into our facility. Growing freight costs, coupled with astronomical storage costs have actually pushed us into looking at the possibility of developing our own local intermodal facility. We estimate that a facility of this type would pay for itself within three to five years' time (for our needs alone). Think of what a facility of this size and capacity could do for multiple companies in the Upper Midwest. Awarding a TIGER grant to this project would greatly impact the outgoing end of our business as well. We ship product all over the world, & an intermodal hub within the Upper Midwest would greatly help facilitate that. I believe a hub of this size would attract new businesses & jobs to the Upper Midwest, & substantially reduce the costs of transportation for my company in specific. I appreciate your time and consideration of providing this TIGER Grant to the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub in Manly, Iowa. Thank you and have a nice day.

Sincerely

Steve Sukup

CC: Iowa Northern Railway
PO Box 640
Greene, IA. 50636

Staggemeyer Stave Co., Inc.

18318 State Hwy. 76 So.

Caledonia, MN 55921

PH 507-724-3395 Email staggstave@qwestoffice.net

June 22, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S E
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Sir:

We currently ship 12 container loads a year to Hungary, 4-6 loads to Australia, 2-4 loads to the Spain area plus 30-40 loads a year to California.

All loads are in containers that come from St. Paul, MN. or Chicago, IL. rail yards.

This could potentially save our customers some of their shipping costs.

Thank you.


Michael Staggemeyer, President

Staggemeyer Stave CO., Inc.

CC: Iowa Dept. of Transportation, Iowa Northern Railway Co.



20 July 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
United State Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Ref: Iowa Department of Transportation application for TIGER Grant

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I have become aware of an application for a TIGER Grant by the Iowa Department of Transportation for the purpose of establishing an Upper Midwest Transportation Hub in Manly, Iowa. The geographic location of Manly Iowa offers a central location from which the greater population centers of both Des Moines, Iowa and Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota can have access to a world class intermodal container facility. As both import and export trade continues to grow, it is critical that our region of our country have access to the world through such a shipping aggregation depot.

Stellar Industries, Inc. is a 25-year old company that builds products for use in the world-wide construction, mining, and transportation industries. While the export of our products do not account for a large percentage of our current business volume, we hope to see this part of our business grow in the future. We also augment our Iowa-produced products with both components and whole goods that we import from Pacific Rim and European countries. The existence of a local intermodal container facility would make our shipping and receiving of these items much more convenient for our company.

While I'm sure that you have many projects vying for funding in the TIGER Grant program, I can't imagine any other that would have the positive effect of expanding foreign trade like the planned Upper Midwest Transportation Hub in Manly, Iowa. Please give this project your consideration and include this project as a 2015 recipient of TIGER Grant funding.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Zrostlik". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D".

David W. Zrostlik
President
Stellar Industries, Inc.

Cc: Iowa Department of Transportation-Office of Rail Transportation, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010
Iowa Northern Railway Co., 305 2nd Street SE, Suite 400, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401



TamaBenton COOPERATIVE

311 Front St.
CLUTIER, IOWA 52217
Tele. (319) 479-2500 • Fax (319) 479-2243

P.O. Box 459
DYSART, IOWA 52224
Tele. (319) 476-3666 • Fax (319) 476-4329

711 South K Ave.
VINTON, IOWA 52349
Tele. (319) 472-4791 • Fax (319) 472-2741

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Regarding: Grant Request for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub at Manly, IA.

I am writing in support of the TIGER Grant Application for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (also known as UMTH) that will develop a full service intermodal container facility which would allow for the transfer of domestic products for international shipments from trailers and containers.

Over the past few years while managing a large farmer owned grain cooperative I have experienced the growth of the container loading business at Edgerton, KS (near Kansas City) where milo, soybeans and distillers grains have been successfully loaded and shipped to the Asian markets. This has most often allowed farmers and grain elevators to receive a premium for their commodities which has supported economic development in rural communities within a 100 mile radius of Kansas City.

I would appreciate your consideration for this grant request for the Transportation Hub at Manly, IA.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Gabehart

General Manager

TamaBenton Cooperative, Dysart, IA

319-476-3666



June 3, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: TIGER Grant to USDOT

Dear Honorable Anthony R. Foxx:

It is my pleasure write a letter in support of the TIGER grant application for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Here at Universal Industries, Inc., we strive daily to keep our costs as low as possible for our customers when it comes to their freight needs. A more local transportation hub can and will certainly aid in this venture.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation as they seek external funding to support a program designed to enhance safe, reliable, efficient and cost effective transportation of goods both in and out of our local region. Any intermodal services program that can help in curbing the disadvantage we are at in attracting and keeping businesses, along with cutting such high transportation costs, will facilitate growth for us all.

Sincerely,

Dean A. Bierschenk, President
Universal Industries, Inc.

1434 220th Street
P.O. Box 610
Webster City, IA 50595-0610

Phone Orders: 1-800-779-2424
Phone: 1-515-832-2366
FAX: 1-515-832-2955

June 1, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Fox
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Mr. Fox:

The Iowa and the Minnesota Departments of Transportation are working together to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation to help fund an intermodal container facility at Manly, Iowa. This would be a full service intermodal container facility for the transfer of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers from truck to rail and rail to truck.

Northwest Iowa and southern Minnesota currently does not have any intermodal container service in this geographic area. Iowa only has one intermodal facility in the state and this facility only offers limited service. We need a full service intermodal facility to serve northwest Iowa and southern Minnesota. We are currently at a disadvantage when it comes to transportation costs and service.

Van Diest Supply Company is a manufacturer and distributor of agricultural pesticides and we receive overseas shipments and we ship overseas. An intermodal facility at Manly, Iowa would certainly help make us more competitive in the world market.

We urge you to support this grant request.

Very truly yours,

Van Diest Supply Company



Robert A. Van Diest
Chairman & CEO

cc: Iowa Department Transportation
Office of Rail Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames IA 50010



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Vermeer
1210 Vermeer Road East
Pella, IA 50219
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Fax: (641) 621-8400
www.vermeer.com

Mary Vermeer Andringa
Chief Executive Officer
Chair of the Board

June 26, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Secretary,

We appreciate the foresight and goals of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants announced by the U.S. Department of Transportation to assist in funding capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure projects across the country.

As CEO of Vermeer Corporation, in our role as an Iowa-based manufacturer needing a strong supply chain and distribution capabilities, or with the Nat'l Association of Manufacturers (recent NAM Chair) ensuring the vitality of manufacturing in the US, or as a President's Export Council member making sure strong infrastructure exists to meet exporting opportunities, I am concerned that we have the right physical structure in place to move forward. I am especially concerned that productive rural and smaller urban areas in the US are tied in to the global value chain.

The Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation have partnered to submit a TIGER grant application for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH). Enhancing safe, reliable, efficient and cost effective transportation of goods both in and out of the region, this Manly, Iowa hub will keep the upper Midwest in the forefront of global trade for decades to come. This has significant impact on economic development and business retention for the region.

A successful TIGER grant for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub will develop an independent, full service intermodal container facility for the transfer of domestic and international shipping trailers and containers from truck to rail and rail to truck. This development will serve customers in an approximate 150 mile radius in north central Iowa and southern Minnesota.

This region is currently at a disadvantage in attracting and keeping businesses that need intermodal services. Currently, many Iowa and southern Minnesota shippers requiring intermodal service typically truck commodities to intermodal centers in Chicago, Kansas City, Council Bluffs (Iowa's only intermodal center) or Minneapolis (existing intermodal centers have limited routing options) where products enter the national rail system.



The Honorable Foxx
June 26, 2015
Page 2

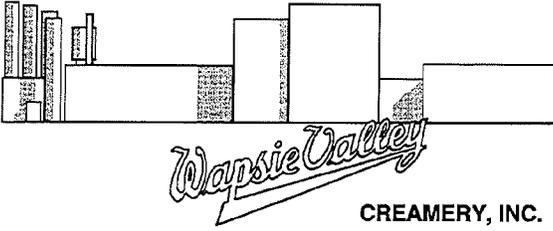
Many businesses in the region needing intermodal service experience higher transportation costs, making them less competitive due to the additional truck miles to a full service intermodal facility. Businesses with intermodal needs (warehousing, distribution, manufacturing, and many others) are less likely to consider this area as a future location. Or, as shipping costs rise, existing businesses may seek locations with more comprehensive or cost effective transportation options.

I would like to register support for the TIGER grant application of the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH). This significant infrastructure improvement would improve the productivity and competitiveness of the region and companies like Vermeer Corporation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Andringa".

Mary Vermeer Andringa
Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Board



300 TENTH STREET N.E. P.O. BOX 391. INDEPENDENCE, IA 50644-0391. PHONE (319) 334-7193
FAX (319) 334-4914

June 19, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U. S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx,

As a manufacturer of cheese and dried whey products, we support the Iowa Northern Railway Company's effort to build the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub.

Sincerely,

Mark Nielsen

Copy

Manufacturers and Distributors of Grade A Milk, Butter, Cheddar and Colby Cheese, Lactose (Edible), and Spray Dried Products (Edible)



This seal is your assurance of a REAL dairy food

June 23, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590



Honorable Secretary Foxx:

We at Wayne Engineering, a manufacturer of refuse trucks and street sweepers, would like to register our support for the proposed TIGER grant application for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH). We see this as a substantial improvement to our ability to conduct our business here in the Midwest in a convenient and competitive manner. We have two areas of interest that make this project especially valuable to us. Our first interest is in being able to ship export products more conveniently, more timely, and lastly, more competitively. We now ship by truck or drive-out-service to the Chicago ports or to the Florida ports. Being able to load and properly supervise our loading locally would be an enormous advantage to us and having a direct route to the port would be competitively advantageous as well.

The second issue of great interest to us is the shipping of CNG (compressed natural gas) and electric vehicles. When transporting CNG vehicles we cannot simply have them driven to our customers as is normal in our industry because the CNG infrastructure does not yet exist for cross country travel on Vocational trucks of our kind. We therefore must ship them on trucks or literally tow them by tow truck because flatbed trailers are not big enough to handle the length of our product. Our only other alternative would be rail! Additionally we are engaged in the discovery and development of electric powered trash trucks that most certainly do not have even a token infrastructure available for recharging in a cross country transport.

We would encourage you to approve the TIGER grant because it would greatly enhance our ability to compete on international sales and provide us with an excellent mode of transportation for our domestic production of alternative fuel refuse trucks.

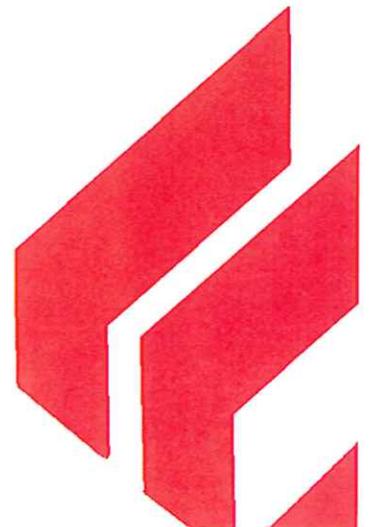
Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Watje', is written over a large, faint red watermark of the Wayne Engineering logo.

Kevin Watje
Chief Executive Officer
Wayne Engineering
A Division of Wayne Industrial Holdings

Wayne Engineering, LLC

701 Performance Drive
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613
Tel: 319-266-1721
Fax: 1-319-266-8207



The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Page 2
June 23, 2015

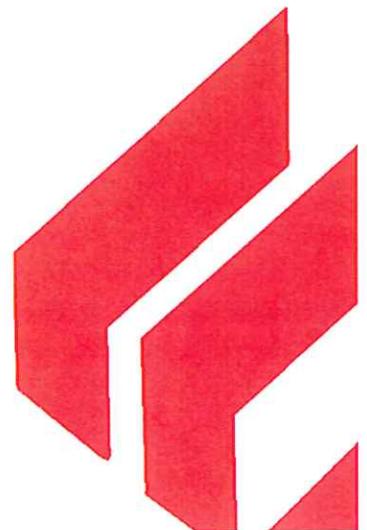
cc: Iowa Department of Transportation
Office of Rail Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Iowa Northern Railway Company
305 2nd Street SE, Suite 400
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Daniel R. Sabin, President
Northern Railway Company
dsabin@iowanorthern.com

Wayne Engineering, LLC

701 Performance Drive
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613
Tel: 319-266-1721
Fax: 1-319-266-8207



June 5, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

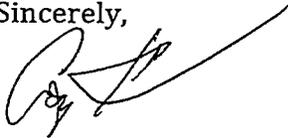
Dear Honorable Anthony R. Foxx:

I am writing to express my support of the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation TIGER grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for partial funding of the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH) project.

As the Vice President of Grain at WFS, the largest local farm service cooperative in the state of Minnesota, I believe this project would be very beneficial for our company, as well as any company that markets grain in our region. The hub would open doors to additional grain markets, which would greatly enhance marketing opportunities and increase profitability for the more than 4,000 farmer-members that we serve. Not only would the UMTH have significant impact on economic development, but it would also put our region at the forefront of global trade for decades to come.

I urge you to please take great consideration when reviewing the application submitted by the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation for your TIGER grant. The benefits from this project will make a substantial impact to our region.

Sincerely,



Vice President of Grain
WFS

Cc: Iowa Department of Transportation



701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW ▪ Suite 750 ▪ Washington, DC 20004

LUKE M. HARMS

Senior Manager, Government Relations

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Whirlpool Corporation ("Whirlpool") strongly supports the TIGER grant application for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub (UMTH). This partnership between the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation would help ensure reliable and cost effective transportation of goods into and out of the Upper Midwest region.

Whirlpool is the number one major appliance manufacturer in the world, with approximately \$20 billion in annual sales, 100,000 employees and 70 manufacturing and technology research centers throughout the world in 2014. The company markets Whirlpool, Kitchenaid, Maytag, Consul, Brastemp, Amana, Bauknecht, Jenn-Air, Indesit and other major brand names in more than 170 countries.

Having intermodal capability in Iowa would support our Midwest manufacturing and distribution operations in Middle Amana and North Liberty, Iowa. The UMTH would allow Whirlpool to avoid costly drayage to Chicago and other more distant intermodal facilities.

Again, Whirlpool strongly supports the TIGER grant application for the Upper Midwest Transportation Hub. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luke Harms". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Luke M. Harms
Senior Manager, Government Relations

CC: Iowa Department of Transportation