

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As members of the Illinois congressional delegation, we write in strong support of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program and encourage you to fully fund Illinois' request for \$300 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) TIGER grant program.

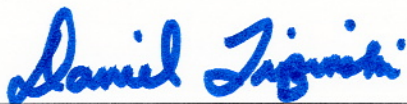
As you know, northeastern Illinois is North America's predominant rail hub and also its largest freight bottleneck. With the amount of freight traveling through the region projected to double over the next twenty years, it is imperative that the Chicago rail and freight hub be modernized to accommodate current and future demand. The CREATE public-private partnership accomplishes this by incorporating 78 critical modernization projects aimed at reducing regional rail and road congestion while improving safety and creating jobs. CREATE will not only improve the quality of life for millions of Illinois residents, but significantly enhance the efficiency of the nation's freight and passenger rail network.

With funding from Class I railroads and governmental partners, including \$100 million previously designated by Congress in SAFETEA-LU, CREATE has already made significant progress on a number of projects. Additional investment would fund critical projects ready for construction that currently lack funding and create thousands of new good-paying jobs immediately.

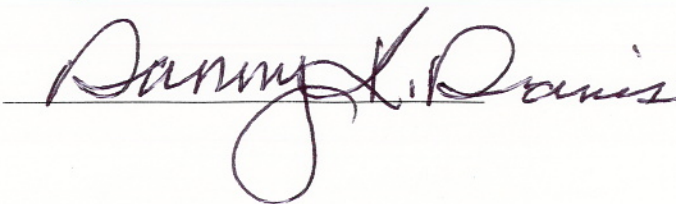
Given the regional and national significance of CREATE, and its ability to spur job growth quickly, we support the state's application for \$300 million in ARRA funding for the program.

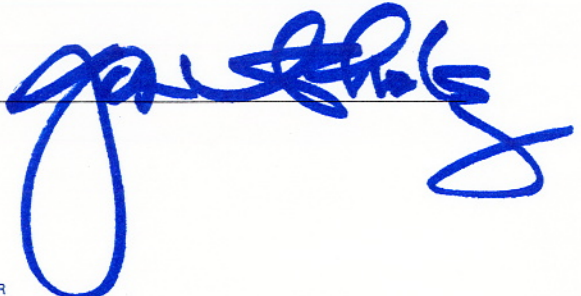
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,









David Jackson
Bobby T. Nash
American

Chris V. Anthony
Bill Josta
Mike Dingley

Signatories:

Rep. Daniel Lipinski

Rep. Mark Kirk

Rep. Danny K. Davis

Rep. Jan Schakowsky

Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr.

Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez

Rep. Bobby L. Rush

Rep. Bill Foster

Rep. Peter Roskam

Rep. Mike Quigley