



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

October 1, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Re: North Carolina Department of Transportation's Request for a Letter of Intent for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Rail Funding

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The undersigned members of the North Carolina Congressional delegation write in strong and unanimous support for the State of North Carolina's pursuit of a Letter of Intent (LOI) from the federal government for development of the Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR) Corridor.

The Federal Railroad Administration's guidance on distribution of rail funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act sets forth guidelines for the issuance of an LOI for High-Speed Rail/Intercity Passenger Rail Service Development Programs under "Track 2." The federal government may commit to fund an entire program through an LOI and obligate funds through cooperative agreements that establish deadlines for completion of environmental, engineering, design and other work.

North Carolina is seeking an LOI for development of the SEHSR Corridor. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has completed extensive planning, engineering and financial analyses that serve as the foundation for plans for rail development in the Southeast. SEHSR will provide a convenient, affordable alternative to highway and air travel between the Southeast and Northeast, connecting Charlotte through Raleigh to Richmond, Virginia and on to Washington, DC.

North Carolina has been on the cutting edge of developing high-speed rail. The nationally-recognized Sealed Corridor initiative has grade-separated significant portions of the corridor. The North Carolina plan for SEHSR will enhance local economies, revitalize urban centers, improve track safety and capacity and contribute to environmental sustainability. With a funding commitment from the federal government we can move forward to implement our program.

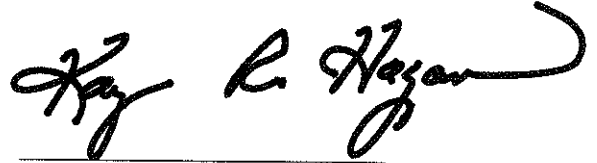
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We would welcome the opportunity to discuss North Carolina's plan for high-speed rail further and thank you for your leadership in advancing high-speed and intercity passenger rail through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Sincerely,



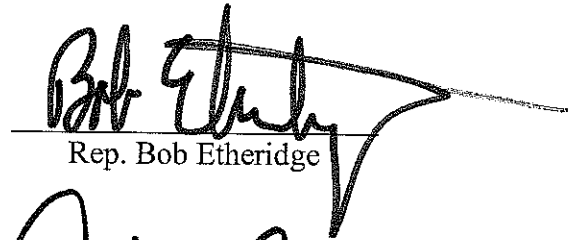
Sen. Richard Burr



Sen. Kay Hagan



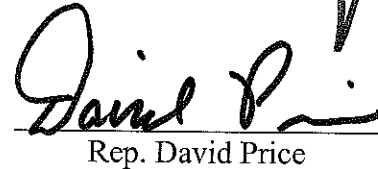
Rep. G.K. Butterfield



Rep. Bob Etheridge



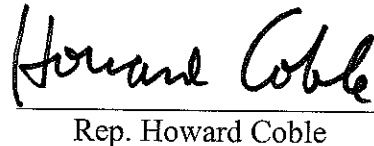
Rep. Walter Jones



Rep. David Price



Rep. Virginia Foxx



Rep. Howard Coble



Rep. Mike McIntyre



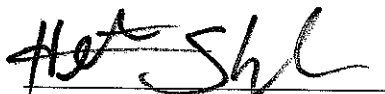
Rep. Larry Kissell



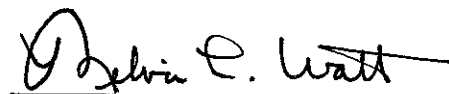
Rep. Sue Myrick



Rep. Patrick McHenry



Rep. Heath Shuler



Rep. Melvin L. Watt

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Rep. Brad Miller

CC: Governor Bev Perdue
NCDOT Secretary Gene Conti
FRA Administrator Joe Szabo