Monroe County
Industrial Development
Corporation

JUN 21 2006

June 12. 2006

The Honorable John D. Dingell
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

Upon my return from the Detroit Chamber of Commerce Leadership Conference on June 5, 2006 I received your letter dated May 30, 2006 regarding the proposed Intermodal Rail facility in Erie, Michigan.

Question 1. The Monroe County Industrial Development Corporation (MCIDC) is a private 501 (C) 3 not for profit corporation with the following mission statement:

"A non profit corporation serving industry to attract, retain and diversify job opportunities in Monroe County in manufacturing, research and service."

Our four main goals are as follows:

1. To provide our clients with information and services in an accurate, productive and timely manner

2. To increase tax base and job opportunities in Monroe County

3. To promote and encourage entrepreneurial development in Monroe County

4. To build support for the MCIDC so that it can effectively implement economic development in Monroe County for the benefit of its citizens

The MCIDC is governed by a Board of Directors represented by representatives from business, labor, public and private entities.

Question 2. While U.S. Rail has not specifically stated to me how they will use the power of eminent domain, I believe they have such authority under the Laws of the State of Michigan. I have encouraged the company to make an earnest attempt to secure the desired land through negotiations with the affected property owners.

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Question 3. It is my understanding that the proposed boundaries are as you stated, however, the project it is still early in the planning process and may be subject to change.

Question 4. I do not believe that a NEPA review has been conducted at this point. The company has been urged to come into strict compliance with any and all regulations that affect this project.

Question 5. I am not definitively aware of permits that may need to be obtained, however once again, U.S. Rail has been strongly encouraged to adhere to all federal and state requirements.

Question 6. Once again, the corporations involved in this project have given me their promise that all regulations will be adhered to.

Question 7. Whatever permits are necessary for the project to move forward, the developers have assured me that they will be obtained and complied with.

Question 8. We have discussed the possibility of scheduling a meeting to solicit public input when the project is in the final process, but before finalization.

Question 9. According to U.S. Rail, it is estimated that approximately 700 jobs will be created within a 36 month timeline. The jobs will pay between $12.00 and $28.00 per hour plus a benefit package. These jobs will include persons employed by the rail company, truck drivers, diesel mechanics and rail ramp employees.

Question 10. It is my understanding that September 2007 is the anticipated date to begin rail operations.

I wholeheartedly agree that the citizens of Erie Township should have the opportunity to express their concerns regarding this project. Furthermore, it is also important that the concerns of the community are taken into account. For those reasons I have not only recommended those actions addressed above, but also that the people of Erie Township be treated in a manner that is fair and respectful.

The overall impact of this project could have significant economic benefit not only to Monroe County, but to Southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio as well. Similar projects around the country have generated thousands of jobs and increased the tax base in a very positive manner. Unaccounted for at this time are the numerous indirect jobs that will be created through the construction phase of the project. The impact may well be not only on future opportunities but also the positive effect that such a facility will have on the existing companies in the state.

Please be assured that the MCIDC works with the best interest of Monroe County and its citizens in mind. If in any way we can be of assistance to your office, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

William P. Morris
President

CC: : Senator Carl M. Levin, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Representative Kathy Angerer