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March 4, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear President Barack Obama,

As Chairman of the NC Metropolitan Mayors Coalition - the organization of the leading elected officials of the largest cities and towns in North Carolina - I am writing to let you know that our board has voted unanimously to support new or reallocated federal funding to advance the Raleigh - Richmond high speed rail corridor.

The Raleigh-Petersburg-Richmond corridor is the linchpin project for the entire Southeast High Speed Rail corridor. It will connect the Northeast and Piedmont Atlantic (southeastern) megaregions, while saving more than 90 minutes of travel time compared to the current rail routing. Southeast High Speed Rail corridor revenues are anticipated to exceed operating expenses, providing for operation without any public subsidy.

The mayors across our state are united in their support for advancing construction of the Raleigh-Richmond high speed rail segment, and we would appreciate your support of this project for the future of North Carolina.

Sincerely,


Durham Mayor William V. "Bill" Bell
Chair, N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition

cc: North Carolina Congressional Delegation
David Agnew, Deputy Director, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
Ray LaHood, Secretary United States DOT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE N.C. LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES