



CENTERSTATE  
CORPORATION FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

June 1, 2015

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

Re: The CenterState New York Inland Port Logistics Complex and Rail Connector Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

CenterState CEO is a private, not-for-profit business leadership and regional development organization which seeks to encourage the growth and development of Central New York. CCEO has 2,000 business members, and on behalf of that membership, I want to offer our enthusiastic endorsement of the CenterState New York Inland Port Logistics Complex and Rail Connector Project.

One of the highest priorities of CenterState CEO is to help our region's companies become more globally connected. We have been a pilot community in the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Export Initiative (MEI). As such we devised a plan to help the companies in CNY grow and expand their exports. While Central New York is a hub of manufacturing and high value added services, the region exports a smaller percentage of its products and services than the U.S. as a whole. Our producers have told us that one reason for this is the high cost of shipping products from this region. We believe that the Inland Port project will directly address the problem.

We believe the Inland Port can be transformative for our region because:

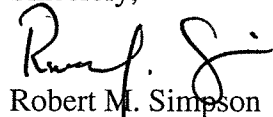
1. It will reduce the cost of transporting products to the Port of New York and New Jersey by 40%
2. It will reduce congestion on our roads by moving more containers by rail.
3. It will reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gases by eliminating the number of empty containers that have to be brought back from, or delivered to the PONYNJ by developing a container pool in our region.
4. It will reclaim an underutilized property and a mine which currently has limited use.
5. It will create new, high paying job opportunities, close to the center city, and we will have programs in place to assist unemployed and under-employed people qualify for those jobs.

6. It will take advantage of CNY's central location among the northeastern cities of the U.S. and the eastern cities of Canada to make us a very competitive location for logistics, warehousing and distribution companies.

CenterState CEO has been deeply involved in the planning and financing of this project. We urge USDOT to recognize the transformative nature of this project, the significant opportunity to leverage committed public and private assets, and to strengthen the transportation infrastructure of Upstate New York, by agreeing to invest \$24 million in the project for the TIGER program.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of our region.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Simpson  
President

cc: Senator Charles Schumer  
Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
Congressman John Katko  
County Executive Joanne M. Mahoney