

June 3, 2015

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

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing you to enthusiastically endorse the Port of Oswego Authority's application to the USDOT for a TIGER grant of \$17 million to construct the CenterState NY Inland Port. This project is of substantial importance to the regional economy in Central New York, and funding from the USDOT will ensure its success.

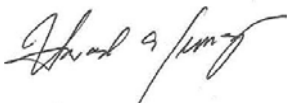
The project is well-aligned with Empire State Development's mission to create meaningful economic development opportunities, and the State of New York is investing \$40M in railway improvement projects critical to the success of the CenterState NY Inland Port.

The CenterState NY Inland Port project will expand the region's capacity to warehouse, containerize, and export regionally manufactured products across the world, as well as develop critical railroad extensions off the PS&W line. These improvements will reduce the cost of shipping products to the Port of New York and New Jersey by 40%, and the reduction in rail congestion will ensure New York's shipping industry is prepared for the anticipated increase in volume associated with the 2016 Panama Canal expansion.

The Inland Port project will not only create new jobs and economic growth, but will also provide environmental benefits. The project will reduce vehicle congestion on roadways by increasing rail capacity, and the creation of a container pool in the Central New York region will reduce inefficiencies in the rail transportation system.

I thank you for your consideration, and encourage you to support this transformative project.

Sincerely,



Howard Zemsky
President & CEO of Empire State Development
Commissioner of the New York State Department of Economic Development