OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT

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November 20, 2008

Mort Downey
Chairman
PB Consult
1401 K Street NW; Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Downey,

On behalf of the Waterfront Coalition, I would like to congratulate you on being named to President-elect Obama's transportation transition team. We hope that in your deliberations concerning future transportation priorities of the nation that you and your team consider elevating the needs of freight mobility to foster needed economic growth, clean air and, above all, strengthen economic competitiveness.

Waterfront Coalition members understand the severe capacity constraints that plague much of the nation's freight transportation network. These bottlenecks and resulting freight delays contribute to rising inventory costs for retailers and manufacturers and lost overseas sales for our exporters. Our group recognizes and supports the need to make serious long term infrastructure investments in roads, highways, tunnels and bridges that move freight in this country. We also understand that traditional revenue sources alone will not be able to reverse decades of public underinvestment in this infrastructure.

To that end, we have coordinated a broad based industry effort among a variety of shippers, both domestic and international, and transportation providers to identify appropriate mechanisms to levy alternative sources of revenue. We have also given much thought as to how this revenue may be used to fund the most needed and often neglected components of the freight network.

A federal approach towards improving freight infrastructure must happen in a coordinated and rational manner. For too long Congressional earmarks diluted any discretionary authority granted to the department to achieve this rational approach to achieve a federal freight policy. We also hope that the future leadership within the Department of Transportation will provide this strategic and coordinated approach towards investing in freight infrastructure. To achieve this end, we encourage you and your team to consider reviving the Office of Intermodalism headed by an assistant secretary.

In moving forward, please consider the Waterfront Coalition as a vital resource. We would be more than willing to brief you and your team on all the work we have accomplished in identifying a federal freight user fee and how such a fee could be structured.

Please feel free to contact us at (202) 861-0825