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"Speaking for Business

Listening to the Community"

March 16, 2012

Secretary Ray LaHood
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Support for the City of Oakland & Port of Oakland's TIGER 2012 Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, I am submitting this letter of support for the City of Oakland and Port of Oakland's TIGER 2012 grant application to convert the former Oakland Army Base into a thriving Trade and Logistics Center. The many businesses in *our* city that rely on the Port of Oakland for import and export of goods welcome a revitalized, thriving former Oakland Army Base.

It has been more than ten years since the Oakland Army Base was decommissioned and is way past due for economic redevelopment. The proposed \$20 million TIGER 2012 grant application will help to facilitate a nearly four-fold expansion in rail cargo transfer capacity by building additional rail access in the OAB area. The total project cost is \$43 million, and this investment will complement the ongoing development plans and goals for the joint City of Oakland and Port of Oakland plans to install new trade infrastructure and prepare the OAB site for additional trade and logistics development. This rail project will make access to the Port more efficient for existing shippers and solidify the Port's position as a premier export gateway for a range of intermodal and commodity types.

With the potential of 3,000 jobs, enhanced intermodal capacity for the Port, substantial emissions reduction due to expanded use of rail, and substantially increasing the economic competitiveness of the Port are compelling. Cleaning the air for the surrounding community and mitigating the decaying and wasteful infrastructure currently serving the site is essential. Tens of millions of dollars in contracting opportunities for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises will stimulate the economy of a city that is slowly coming out of the recession that has significantly impacted the State of California and nearly all local governmental agencies.

The San Leandro Chamber and the business community we represent, strongly support the Oakland Global Trade and Logistics project and the City/Port's TIGER 2012 application that will assist greatly in bringing that project to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David P. Johnson".

David P. Johnson
President & CEO

