

-SAMPLE LETTER-

January 24, 2007

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
9th Congressional District of Ohio
Washington Office
2186 Rayburn Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

One Maritime Plaza
Sixth Floor
Toledo, Ohio 43604

The Honorable Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur:

I am writing to urge you to support the Ohio Rail Development Commission's federal appropriation request to fund the first step in developing the Ohio Hub passenger rail corridor between Cleveland, Toledo and Detroit. This rail project will create significant benefits for our region and it is critical that we begin to move it forward.

The effort will advance the development of the Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit rail corridor through the required steps under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and will resolve our region's decisions regarding the location of the project, the capital improvements, community priorities and environmental impacts. If it were fully funded it would take only seven years to plan, design and construct the railroad capacity improvements needed for reliable, fast, frequent, service with passenger train speeds up to 110-MPH as defined in the Ohio Hub Plan.

Our region is faced with an array of urgent economic, environmental and mobility challenges that require bold, effective action be taken to implement strategic and essential investments in our rail transportation system. But it is highly unlikely that Ohio and our neighboring states will advance the development of the Ohio Hub rail corridors without federal matching funds.

This project needs a champion, so please support the development of intercity/interstate passenger rail by funding this request for a program-level, first-tier environmental impact statement for the Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit corridor. We need to get this going.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(Please send copies of your signed letter to the Ohio Rail Development Commission, c/o Don Damron, 50 W. Broad St., Suite 1510, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Fax # 614-327-2690.)