

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 19, 2009

Mr. John J. Mattheussen
Chief Executive Officer
Delaware River Port Authority
One Port Center, 2 Riverside Drive
P.O. Box 1949
Camden, New Jersey 08101

Dear Mr. Mattheussen:

The Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) has introduced a comprehensive Transit Plan for Southern New Jersey. We are writing to express our support for the proposal that will ease congestion, reduce greenhouse emissions, create jobs, and offers more transit options to Southern New Jersey.

DRPA's multi-faceted plan uses rail expansion and enhancement, as well as rapid bus transit to meet the transportation needs of a burgeoning area of the Garden State. The DRPA plan includes diesel light-rail trains, which run 18 miles along existing Conrail tracks from Camden to Glassboro; a rail connection to the existing Atlantic City Rail Line to provide commuters easier access to the Atlantic City International Airport; and rapid bus transit along the oft-congested Routes 42 and 55. With the support of Governor Jon S. Corzine, this plan is on track to becoming a reality.

DRPA's plan promotes a healthy environment and economy. It is important to consider that nearly one third of our emissions come from transportation. Moving more commuters by mass transit than by car will lower harmful greenhouse emissions, as well as reduce congestion and stress on our roads. This plan will provide New Jersey with a big boost to the economy by creating jobs in the short and long term. Furthermore, it will allow more residents to travel to major hubs of employment such as Philadelphia and Trenton. DRPA's plan lays the track for a brighter and more prosperous future in Southern New Jersey.

Public transportation will be crucial in our efforts to increase mobility, create jobs, cut emissions, and reduce congestion and wear on our roads. The DRPA's Transit Plan for Southern New Jersey will meet these demands, and we are proud to be among its supporters.

Sincerely,


ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator


FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
United State Senator