



GREATER MADISON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Letter of Support

Wisconsin Department of Transportation – Application: Madison-Milwaukee-Chicago Passenger Rail Service

September 17, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce (GMCC), please accept this letter in support of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation application for federal high-speed rail funds to connect Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago via passenger rail service.

Representing more than 1,600 member businesses in the Madison region, the GMCC supports enlightened economic growth, positioning the greater Madison area as a globally competitive place to live, work, play and do business. To be globally competitive, it is critical that our region have access to an effective, comprehensive transportation network.

The creation of intercity passenger rail service will improve our economic competitiveness by giving commuters and visitors a safe, efficient mode of transit. In addition, the ability to connect with Milwaukee, Chicago and other potential destinations in the Midwest will be attractive to employers with significant employee travel demands.

It is estimated that a regional high-speed rail system will generate billions of dollars in user benefits and create thousands of permanent jobs in Wisconsin. In addition to the jobs created specifically for the system, high-speed service has the potential to spur economic investment along the rail corridor.

In tandem with the direct and indirect economic benefits are substantial environmental benefits in the form of decreased air pollutants and less impact on the natural and built environment. All of these benefits contribute to our economic vitality, which in turn impacts our quality of life.

To help Wisconsin meet the needs of our workforce and address the challenges of the 21st century economy, we encourage you to award funds to establish new – and enhance existing – intercity passenger rail service in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Alexander
President, Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce