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August 13, 2009

John Matheussen
Chief Executive Officer
Delaware River Port Authority
One Port Center, P.O. Box 1949
Camden, NJ 08101

Re: DRPA Rail Extension Proposals

Dear Mr. Matheussen;

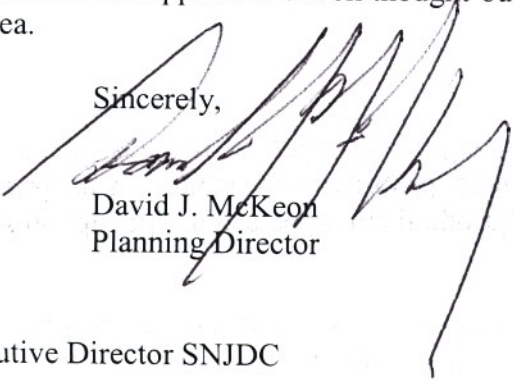
Thank you for hosting the Southern New Jersey Development Council meeting last month and providing an overview of the rail extension proposal completed by the Delaware River Port Authority. I commend your agency for the process in which the preferred alternatives were selected.

While Ocean County is not directly impacted by the proposal, there will be indirect benefits provided to Ocean County residents through the improved connections to the Atlantic City International Airport. An increasing number of residents, particularly in the southern portion of Ocean County, are taking advantage of the cost and time savings provided by this facility.

In a broader sense, I applaud your efforts to improve rail access to residents in the study area. Increased mass transit opportunities are sorely needed for all of New Jersey and yet bureaucratic hurdles and lack of funding prevents any substantial progress in this area. As you may know, Ocean County has been battling for the extension of passenger rail service to the central part of the county for several decades. Unfortunately, the recent emphasis on Smart Growth has done little to advance the construction of mass transit alternatives throughout the region.

Please again accept this letter of support for a well thought-out proposal that will benefit the entire Southern New Jersey area.

Sincerely,


David J. McKeon
Planning Director

dm/rt

cc: Marlene Asselta, Executive Director SNJDC

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