

July 29, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Columbus Regional Airport Authority's TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am pleased to offer my support for the Columbus Regional Airport Authority's application for a grant under the United States Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants program for its expansion of the Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility (RIF) in Columbus, OH.

By way of background, RILA is the trade association of the world's largest and most innovative retail companies. RILA members include more than 200 retailers, product manufacturers and service suppliers, which together account for more than \$1.5 trillion in annual sales, millions of American jobs and more than 100,000 stores, manufacturing facilities and distribution centers domestically and abroad.

The Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility provides an efficient means for transferring cargo between trucks and rail, which is vital for Central Ohio warehouses, distribution facilities, and retailers who move their products efficiently throughout the country. It is anticipated that the demand for such freight transportation in Central Ohio will grow in the future, thus RILA believes the RIF expansion is a way to ensure goods movement remains fluid and efficient.

In addition, RILA understands from a recent Parsons Brinkerhoff study that there are significant public benefits over the next 30 years associated with the RIF Expansion. Some of the benefits include the avoidance of 1.3 million hours in highway user delays, \$103 million in avoided pavement damage, and 885 thousand tons of carbon emissions eliminated.

As such, I would like to thank you for your time and review of this grant request and urge you to give the Rickenbacker Intermodal Terminal Expansion funding proposal your full and fair consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (703) 600-2064 or kelly.kolb@rila.org.

Sincerely,



Kelly Kolb
Vice President, Government Affairs