

November 27, 2012

The Honorable Pat Quinn Governor State of Illinois 207 State House Springfield, Illinois 62706

## Dear Governor Quinn:

World Business Chicago's recently published *Plan for Economic Growth and Jobs* lists ten strategies for economic growth, including a focus on enhancing the region's competitive position as a leading transportation and logistics hub. As the Steering Committee convened to create and guide implementation of this Plan, we urge your strongest support for implementation of congestion pricing on new lanes in the Chicago region, as most recently outlined by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).

The ability to move goods quickly and reliably is at the core of our dominant position in freight and logistic, and plays a supporting role in the success of almost every business in the state. Congestion threatens our existing strengths in transportation, and left to grow unchecked, will continue to erode our competitive advantage. Fast, efficient traffic flow, on the other hand, will make Illinois an even more attractive place for industry to expand, and for people to live and work.

CMAP's recently released congestion pricing analysis demonstrates that completing five express toll lane projects on I-55, I-290, I-90, the proposed Elgin-O'Hare West Bypass, and the proposed Illinois Route 53 north extension would decrease travel times by 31 to 61 percent. This change would translate immediately into smoother operations and increased competitiveness for Illinois firms.

The idea of congestion pricing is ripe, and its results have been proven in other U.S. regions and abroad. The Illinois Toll Highway Authority and Illinois Department of Transportation are considering the possibility of designating new highway lanes for motorists willing to pay higher tolls to avoid slower moving travel in other lanes. With cargo volumes projected to increase substantially in the coming decade, however, we must act now. Congestion pricing needs a firm commitment of support from the State of Illinois to begin producing economic benefits for tits citizens.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding the State of Illinois's intentions to make congestion pricing a reality.

Sincerely

Paul S. Fisher

Chief Executive Officer