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DONALD B. LOCKHART
MAYOR

CITY OF MARENGO

DEBORAH NIER
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

April 19, 2010

U.S. Representative Donald Manzullo
101 N. Virginia Street Suite 170
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Dear Congressman Manzullo:

My purpose for writing today is to express some thoughts upon learning of the recent decision that Amtrak will be utilizing the Union Pacific line to Belvidere for its passenger train service. As a citizen and Mayor of a community in McHenry County, I am thrilled that this service will be available through our county as opposed to another location to the south. I applaud your efforts that led to this decision. You have always been diligent in working on our behalf, and this is further demonstration of the quality of representation from your office.

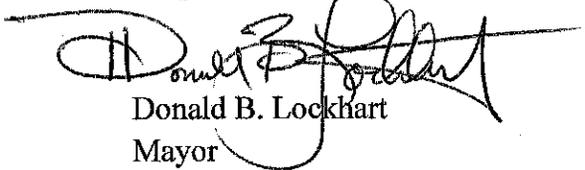
I would like to share a couple of thoughts with you as it relates to Amtrak service through McHenry County. As you already know, Marengo is positioned to become a significant location for development and growth. Had it not been for the economic downturn which has slowed the development and growth of most communities, Marengo would be experiencing a marked upsurge in both residential and business development. Although largely dormant at present, there have continued to be smaller projects that have gone forward, such as those business developments in the Northwest Commerce Center. We have successfully amended our Facilities Planning Area to add almost 1,900 acres between the southern corporate limits and Interstate 90. We are currently in discussions with a property owner to annex approximately 800 acres within that new FPA. A Western Corridor Plan has been completed; the focus of which is transit-oriented development, with a Metra station as a focal point. In addition, a collaborative effort is underway between the Marengo-Union Chamber of Commerce, Marengo Main Street, Marengo Economic Development Commission, and the City of Marengo to develop local tourism as another economic development engine. This effort will focus on promoting agri-tourism, ecotourism, historical tourism, and special attractions throughout the region and statewide. We do this to take advantage of and build upon, what research shows, is almost 250,000 visitors to our area each year.

To facilitate and enhance these efforts, I believe that it is vital that every transportation resource is available to the community. To this end, I would like to respectfully ask that an Amtrak stop in Marengo be given serious consideration. I ask this as a somewhat preemptive request not knowing the specific details of Amtrak's plans for this line. I believe, given the growth potential for the community and surrounding area, as well as existing dialogue with Metra for a train station and coach yard, that an Amtrak stop along the UP line would be advantageous.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my thoughts. I would welcome an opportunity to speak to you about this.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and efforts on behalf of the City of Marengo.

Respectfully yours,



Donald B. Lockhart
Mayor