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Fred L. Armstrong, Mayor

March 19, 2009

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator
306 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

On behalf of the City of Columbus, I would like to thank you for your assistance in previously helping to secure funding for the City through the federal appropriations process. Without your assistance and leadership, many of these important projects would be greatly delayed. In preparation for the FY'10 federal appropriations process, we have identified several large-scale projects which directly affect and benefit the health, welfare, safety, and economy of the City and the surrounding communities. Accordingly, please accept this letter as a formal request to be considered for federal funding in the **FY'10 federal appropriations process**. This letter supplements and amends the letter previously submitted to your office (dated February 26, 2009), and is intended to provide you with a concise description of the important projects for which we are seeking federal assistance.

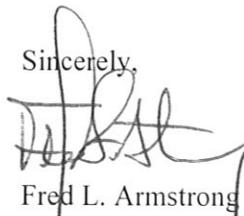
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation and Upgrading Project**— As any resident of or visitor to our community knows, our 53-year old sewage treatment plant generates odors that underscore the need for its replacement and relocation. In addition, due to the age of the facility and the system, many replacement parts have become difficult, if not impossible, to obtain as pieces of the out-dated system fail. The minimal capacity and inefficiency of the plant constrains the economic growth of our community. Moreover, it is located in a prime downtown location with enormous recreational development potential. The City plans on constructing a new sewage treatment facility remotely located on the west side of the City. As part of this project, we've has already completed, or will soon complete, the initial phases of the project consisting of designing, engineering and construction various lift stations, force mains and piping in anticipation of the relocation and construction of the new treatment plant. Once the wastewater treatment plant has been relocated, the old facility will be demolished to make way for possible recreational, residential, or commercial uses that will enhance and benefit from the proximity to the downtown area. The City has already expended approximately \$32 million on these initial phases. However, based upon current estimates, we will be required to raise sewer rates by approximately 81% to cover the financing of the project. Any federal assistance we receive to assist with the project will clearly lessen the sewer rate increase that is necessary to complete the project. *Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$1,000,000 in FY'10 appropriations for the design, engineering and construction of the new wastewater treatment facility.*

- **Columbus Municipal Airport Air Traffic Control Tower Re-Construction**—The existing 55-year-old air traffic control tower at the Columbus Municipal Airport is plagued by multiple deficiencies and has out-lived its useful life. This project will provide for the construction of a new air traffic control tower at the airport in order to adequately and safely accommodate the increased use of the airport facility by neighboring businesses and military facilities. Operated by the City as a public-use airport since 1969, the air traffic control tower at the Columbus Municipal Airport serves a critical role in local transportation as well as the local economy. However, the deficiencies are beyond the point of repair or renovation, such that a new tower is necessary. The existing tower is plagued by the following: (i) fails to provide an unobstructed view of the airfield; (ii) accessible only by-way of narrow steps exposed to the weather and which are neither ADA nor EMT compliant; (iii) insufficient working space for staff, equipment and restroom facilities, and thus, fails to meet minimal FAA requirements; (iv) lack of sufficient structural integrity and must be vacated if wind speeds exceed 35 knots, 20 knots lower than FAA standards; (v) inadequate heating, air conditioning, and plumbing; and (vi) inadequate wiring, piping, and insulation due to the age of the facility. Funding will be used for the design, engineering and construction of a new air traffic control tower.

The air traffic control tower at the Columbus Municipal Airport serves a critical role in local transportation as well as the local economy. In 2005, the economic impact of the airport, as calculated by the Aviation Association of Indiana, was projected to be more than \$50 million; the airport serves more than 130 businesses as well as portions of the U.S. military. In 2006, the airport experienced more than 45,000 operations, with almost 5,000 of those being military in nature. Given the airport's proximity to Camp Atterbury, the Muscatatuck Urban Warfare Training Facility, the new Honda manufacturing facility, and other Fortune 500 companies in the Columbus-area, the use of the City's airport is projected to increase significantly. However, in order to adequately and safely accommodate this increased use, the air control tower needs to be replaced in order to eliminate the hazards noted above. *Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$2,500,000 in FY'10 appropriations for the design, engineering and construction of the new municipal airport air traffic control tower.*

On behalf of the City and all its residents, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your past help in securing federal funds for key local projects. Once again, we look forward to working with you and your staff throughout this appropriations process. As always, we would greatly appreciate any support you can provide in helping to secure federal funding for the critical infrastructure projects identified above. If you require any additional information on any of these projects, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Fred L. Armstrong
Mayor