



South Bend Public Transportation Corporation

February 18, 2010

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar,

On behalf of TRANSPO, we write to ask for your support for our initiative to replace four paratransit vehicles that are at the end of their useful lives with four hybrid vehicles.

Over the last year, we have seen a surge in demand for paratransit service. Ridership on our ACCESS program is up 13% in 2009 (over 44,000 rides in total). This service, available on demand, helps the disabled population of South Bend and Mishawaka, which includes veterans, elderly residents, mentally challenged individuals, and individuals with physical disabilities, access employment, services, retail and grocery stores, and other destinations, greatly improving these individuals' quality of life.

Unfortunately, the end of the FTA-determined "useful life" of over half the fleet is quickly approaching. TRANSPO needs to replace four vehicles next year to keep its fleet current. Consistent with TRANSPO's environmentally-friendly approach to construction and operation of its new facility, we seek to replace these vehicles with hybrid body-on-chassis vehicles that will regenerate drive power and transmission capability. We expect to achieve 17% savings on fuel per vehicle by using hybrid technology.

Senator, we are most appreciative of your support for TRANSPO and the hardworking efforts of your staff. We look forward to working with you again this year, and ask for your full consideration and support for this project.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Thomas F. (Chip) Lewis III in black ink.

Thomas F. (Chip) Lewis III
Chairman, Board of Directors

Handwritten signature of John E. Leszczynski in black ink.

John E. Leszczynski
Vice Chairman, Board of Directors