



1375 E. Ninth St., #2300  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
216.241.8004 (tel)  
216.241.8016 (fax)

For Immediate Release

Contact: Nancy Lesic, 216.696.7686

**RAIL CARRIER WILL BETTER LINK CLEVELAND BUSINESS TO PORT AND WORLD MARKETS**  
***Port enters into agreement with Cleveland Commercial Railroad***

**CLEVELAND – January 19, 2011** – Businesses in Greater Cleveland will soon have a much more efficient connection to the Port of Cleveland and the rest of the world.

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority today approved an agreement with Cleveland Commercial Railroad Company, LLC (CCR) – a “shortline” railroad that already operates two lines totaling 23 miles that serve a portion of Cleveland’s industrial economy.

This pilot agreement calls for CCR to locally market rail services to and from the port and manage scheduling and operations of the port’s rail system.

The arrangement will not require any expenditures by the Port Authority. CCR will earn revenue through proceeds generated by the service. CCR will pay the Port Authority a sliding rate after annual volume exceeds 500,000 tons.

“We believe this partnership will help upgrade the port’s rail service – something critical to our competitive position,” said Will Friedman, CEO of the Port Authority. “Improved rail access will make the port more accessible to businesses looking to cut their shipping costs and improve their international reach.”

Port Authority Board Chairman Steve Williams said the partnership is the “next step in improving the port’s connection to Greater Cleveland’s existing rail lines, and will provide a new channel to market the port locally and nationally.”

The partnership between the Cleveland-based railroad and the port is a natural fit, said Bill Brown, CCR’s chief financial officer and one of three owners.

“Cleveland Commercial Railroad has enjoyed steady growth, even in challenging economic times,” said Brown. “We will better connect the port to a rail network – which extends beyond our own 23 miles of track – and will promote the use of the port. This will mean easier, better, more efficient, and less expensive shipping for many Cleveland area businesses.”

CCR will be responsible for negotiating switching agreements and scheduling protocols with Norfolk Southern and CSX railroads, which both currently service the port via separate tracks. CCR will also

-more-

2.

provide advice on designing the planned rail loop, which will connect the tracks at the port. The loop will also add more than a mile of additional track to the port, allowing more rail cars to be brought in and switched on site.

Rail is a reliable, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable alternative to all-truck transport. In addition railroads can transport products such as steel coils that may exceed highway weight limitations.

Port Authority officials said the partnership's work will begin immediately and the rail loop improvement project will be completed later this year.