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March 17, 2008

Mr. Adam Wasserman
President and Chief Executive Officer
Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority
1375 E. Ninth St. Suite 2300
Cleveland, OH 44114

Dear Mr. Wasserman:

I have been reading with interest several news articles recently which chronicle the roll-out of the plans for port relocation. Additionally, I understand that a public meeting was held recently to provide an opportunity for the community to provide feedback. While I was unable to attend this meeting, I know that many spoke of such things as the urgent need for new jobs, an improved logistics network for business, increased lakefront access and environmental issues. What I have read and heard recently strengthens my hope and optimism about the future of Northeast Ohio.

There are a number of ways port relocation can be leveraged to directly increase the quality of life for everyone in our region. First and foremost, creating thousands of new jobs through expansion of port business and development of the off-port area into an International Trade District provides desperately needed hope and opportunity for thousands of people. What I am most excited about, however, is new job creation. The Port Authority and the City of Cleveland envision more than 50,000 new jobs being created by 2033. It is important that all of us stay connected so that we can work together to help prepare the future workforce for these jobs. These new jobs mean hope for our community. It gives students a reason to learn -- and a reason to stay here. With jobs on the horizon, people can establish roots here, buy homes, raise families and strengthen the very fabric of our region. Together, we need to create a new vision for our region.

Port relocation is one important economic catalyst that will set the stage for further growth and development...and, most importantly, hope for our future. The well-being of our community is predicated on continually creating new opportunities. I look forward to a bright, promising future for the people of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. Thank you for leading this effort and count on my support along with the support of Cuyahoga Community College as you move forward in this process.

Sincerely,

Jerry Sue Thornton, Ph.D.
President

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