



Department of Business & Economic Development

Parris N. Glendening
Governor
James T. Brady
Secretary

217 East Redwood Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

July 17, 1997

Mr. Neil J. Pedersen, Director
Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering
State Highway Administration
707 Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: Intercountry Connector

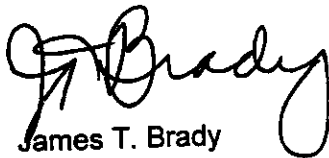
Dear Mr. Pedersen:

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development places the highest priority on its endorsement of the construction of the Intercountry Connector. The Department recognizes this facility as a critical infrastructure investment that will encourage continued private investment in jobs and facilities and provide for long term economic development opportunities throughout a multi-county region. The importance of the ICC was recognized by nearly 400 businesses and The Maryland Economic Development Commission by its inclusion in the Commission's report "Strategic Directions for Increasing the Competitiveness of Maryland's Growth Industry Sectors". The ICC is clearly a major regional project with a statewide impact beyond Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

The Department of Business and Economic Development views the ICC as one of the most important investments this State will make in encouraging and defining economic investment and job creation in the Central Maryland Region. Traffic congestion and the resulting gridlock are the single greatest negative factor in having businesses continue their investment and job creation in the Mid-Quarter Region. This is especially true with companies with high profile corporate headquarters locations or expansions - the very type of business investment the State of Maryland and the Regional Economic Development organizations strive for in this area. It is a critical transportation element in support of the Baltimore-Washington Airport in which the State has invested nearly \$1.5 billion over the last decade; the continued growth of the airport is imperative. The construction of the ICC will allow greater access to the western Washington suburbs, including Frederick, and provide the opportunity for an increase in passenger and freight service passing through the airport.

In summary, this Department believes the ICC will provide an opportunity for investment within existing development envelopes in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, will encourage the continued growth of BWI as an employment and investment center, and will allow greater use of existing infrastructure, providing companies with an opportunity to increase job creation on site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Brady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

James T. Brady
Secretary

cc: Assistant Secretary Vernon Thompson
Assistant Secretary Victor Hoskins
Director of Regional Response Alan Kutz