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July 16, 2014

Michael McLaughlin
Vice President, Planning and Federal Affairs
567 West Lake Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661

Dear Mr. McLaughlin,

The Red Line is Chicago's busiest transit line and one of the busiest in the country. The number of riders along the corridor is growing, with rush hour ridership increasing 40 percent in the past five years.

The Red Purple Modernization Project, which will rebuild the stations and tracks at Lawrence, Argyle and Berwyn and Bryn Mawr, is an important step to meeting future capacity needs. The business districts at each of the stations and the surrounding area rely on customers being able to access their stores from the Red Line.

Due to the vital part the Red Line plays in the health of the business districts in the Edgewater neighborhood, the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce supports the Red Purple Modernization project.

Improvements in service at the Red Line stations will allow more people to take advantage of mass transit, resulting in more customers in the surrounding business districts. Increase in property values and potential new transit oriented development will bring more economic activity to the Edgewater neighborhood.

We look forward to working with the CTA and the Edgewater business community throughout the planning and construction of the Red Purple Modernization Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Koester".

Brian Koester
Chair

Cc: Alderman Harry Osterman