



August 11, 2010

Hon. Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator
Larkin at Exchange
726 Exchange Street, Suite 511
Buffalo, NY 14210

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

On behalf of the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (PBA), I would like to express strong support for Continental 1's ongoing efforts to advance the Route 219 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The Continental 1 Travel and Trade Corridor is a transportation initiative whose completion is critical to the long-term economic prosperity of both North America and those regions currently serviced by the project route, including Buffalo, NY and Fort Erie, Ontario.

As an integral component of the Continental 1 corridor, the Peace Bridge facility is well positioned to identify and promote the vast economic benefits of stronger roadway connections and improved efficiency along the entire travel and trade route.

Along with an expanded Peace Bridge corridor, Continental 1's proposed continuous four-lane highway system – crossing the lines of two major U.S. rail carriers and fourteen east-west interstate highways – will significantly enhance local tourism and trade linkages, by providing the infrastructure necessary to connect Buffalo Niagara and Southern Ontario to major markets and destinations across the eastern seaboard.

Route 219 upgrades are a critical component of the Continental 1 vision and construction of the project's final sections should be resumed immediately, in order to more rapidly harness the immense economic potential of this trade corridor. Therefore, funding for related SEIS completion should be approved and provided by the New York State Department of Transportation at the earliest possible date.

Thank you for your consideration on this and other important regional projects.

Sincerely,

Ron Rienas
General Manager

cc: Chris Hauser, President, Continental One
Phil Scherer, Executive Director, Continental One

