



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City of
North Charleston
SOUTH CAROLINA

R. KEITH SUMMEY
MAYOR

May 11, 2009

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
2135 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Clyburn:

I have recently learned of a proposal submitted to you by the Orangeburg County Development Commission seeking \$278 million in federal funds for rail improvements that would dramatically impact the City of North Charleston.

The proposal, if funded, would assist South Carolina Public Railways implement a rail plan that would explicitly violate a memorandum of understanding between the State of South Carolina and the City of North Charleston regarding rail access to the port under construction in North Charleston. I understand the importance of transporting cargo by rail from the port, and I am in full support of rail access through the southern end of the former Navy Base. However, I cannot support rail access from the north.

An alternate plan has been developed, which provides rail yards for both Class 1 carriers and maintains the agreement between the City of North Charleston and the State of South Carolina.

North Charleston has come a long way since the Navy Base closed. Park Circle and East Montague are better than ever and the former Navy Base with the Riverfront Park and Navy Base Memorial are great improvements. Help North Charleston continue to advance the quality of life that we are coming accustomed to, not destroy it by imposing massive rail yards on an up and coming community.

I would greatly appreciate your audience to discuss this issue and show you the alternative plan before further action is taken on the recent proposal submitted to your office. I thank you in advance and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

R. Keith Summey
Mayor

RKS/crj