



## REMARKS BY KEITH WILKOWSKI ON HIGH-SPEED RAIL PLAN 10/30/09

AS YOU MAY KNOW, MY FATHER ART WILKOWSKI WAS A LEADING ADVOCATE FOR HIGH-SPEED PASSENGER RAIL IN OHIO. HE SERVED IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE FOR FOURTEEN YEARS AND FOUGHT FOR AN INTER-CITY RAIL SYSTEM THAT COULD HAVE REVOLUTIONIZED OHIO'S ECONOMY.

DAD WAS AHEAD OF HIS TIME. TODAY, MOMENTUM IS FINALLY BUILDING FOR HIGH-SPEED PASSENGER TRAINS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS APPROPRIATED \$8 BILLION IN STIMULUS FUNDS TO BE ALLOCATED TO DESIGNATED HIGH-SPEED RAIL CORRIDORS. TOLEDO IS ON THE CHICAGO-TOLEDO-CLEVELAND HSR CORRIDOR. WITH A PRESIDENT FROM CHICAGO COMMITTED TO HSR, TOLEDO IS IDEALLY SITUATED TO BENEFIT FROM THE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE.

BUT NOT ONLY IS TOLEDO WELL-POSITIONED ON THE EAST-WEST AXIS, TOLEDO HAS A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY TO BE A NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR AS WELL, GIVEN ITS GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION BETWEEN COLUMBUS AND DETROIT. THE FEDERAL PLAN DOES NOT CURRENTLY CALL FOR A LINK BETWEEN COLUMBUS AND DETROIT, BUT THE OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION'S OHIO HUB PLAN DOES ENVISION THAT CONNECTION.

AS TOLEDO'S NET MAYOR, I'M GOING TO WORK TO PUT OUR COMMUNITY AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL MOVEMENT.

- FIRST, I WILL FORGE A **MIDWEST MAYOR'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL COMPACT** TO PROMOTE HIGH-SPEED RAIL DEVELOPMENT. MIDWEST GOVERNORS RECENTLY ENTERED INTO A SIMILAR COMPACT. I'LL INVITE THE MAYORS OF CLEVELAND, COLUMBUS, CHICAGO, SOUTH BEND, DETROIT, AND ANN ARBOR TO JOIN ME IN THIS EFFORT.
- SECOND, WE MUST ESTABLISH A **TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT** AROUND TOLEDO'S TRAIN STATION TO POSITION OUR COMMUNITY TO REALIZE NEW COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND JOB GROWTH FROM NEW RAIL DEVELOPMENT.
- FINALLY, WE MUST SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES CREATED BY HIGH-SPEED RAIL TO **GROW OUR LOCAL MANUFACTURING ECONOMY**. TOLEDO IS IDEALLY SUITED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ECONOMIC BOOM THAT WILL COME FROM DESIGNING, ENGINEERING, AND MANUFACTURING THE HIGH-SPEED TRAINS THAT THIS COUNTRY WILL SOON BE PUTTING TO WORK SERVING OUR TRANSPORTATION NEEDS.