

Robert A. Mariano
Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer

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5-24-07

Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.
Milwaukee Common Council
City Hall, Rm. 205
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3570

May 22, 2007

Dear Alderman Hines:

I want to thank you and your fellow aldermen for your strong interest in public transit in general, and commuter rail in particular. All great cities in America have strong and efficient transit systems, with rail transit as the backbone of their systems. As a Common Council, you have seen the wisdom of a transit system that takes people from homes to jobs; that helps business and industry attract workers from a large area; that provides the comfort and reliability that rail transit provides.

As you continue your support for both commuter rail and local transit (one cannot succeed without the other), I urge you to advocate, as I have, for dedicated funding for transit operations. I urge you to develop and pass a resolution that advocates for a dedicated revenue source for public transit in general, and for KRM in particular. If you look carefully at funding for local transit and consider what works best, you will find that a local option sales tax is utilized by most municipalities. As you advocate for transit to serve the people of your city, you would do a great service by also pushing for a dedicated funding source. I urge you to advocate for a local option sales tax for public transit and to endorse the proposed \$13 per transaction fee for rental cars to fund the KRM commuter rail project at the same time.

As a local business leader and chairman of the Greater Milwaukee Committee's Transportation Committee, I stand ready to support you in this worthwhile effort.

Sincerely,


Robert A. Mariano

*Thank you for
your leadership*