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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 12, 2012

Steve Beshear
Governor
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

We write to voice our support for the Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Ohio and the Commonwealth of Kentucky regarding the future construction of a new I-71/I-75 bridge connecting the two states. Moving ahead with this project is an economic imperative that is of great importance to Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

Clearly, the replacement of the Brent Spence Bridge, one of the 15 major interstate bridges which the federal government has labeled "functionally obsolete," will improve the flow of traffic on this busy freight corridor and increase driver safety. While much remains to be done, recent federal reforms will streamline permitting and accelerate construction timelines saving taxpayer dollars. As these and other reforms are implemented by the Federal Highway Administration, we are hopeful that they will be utilized by both states.

We strongly support the ongoing collaborative approach on both sides of the river to identify the best options for rebuilding the Brent Spence Bridge. These efforts are ensuring continued progress on this important initiative that will have positive economic effects for our states and the region. We look forward to partnering with you on this important project.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator