



Department of Development

Ted Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lt. Governor
Director, Ohio Department of Development

December 12, 2008

Columbiana County Port Authority
Tracy Drake, CEO
1250 St. George Street
East Liverpool, OH 43920

Dear Mr. Drake:

We have reviewed your Letter of Intent submitted in request for \$6,000,000 to acquire property adjacent to the Wellsville Intermodal Facility. Based upon your request and our prior knowledge of the project, we have determined that there is an opportunity to build a logistics site that would be beneficial to Ohio and encourage you to submit an application. We recommend that you address the following questions in your application so that we may have a better understanding of the proposed project:

- What is the status of Beard's financing of the \$6 billion plant?
- Is the U.S. Department of Defense, or any other federal agency providing Beard with assistance (i.e., loan guarantees, contracts to purchase the fuel, etc.) to help get the fuel plant started?
- What will the land be used for? Will it be for coal storage (i.e., part of the intermodal facility) or for the Beard plant itself?
- Will the land have a logistics use if Beard does not build the plant? Notwithstanding the Beard project, would the land be valuable as economic development sites?
- To what extent will there be other land available for logistics development if Beard goes forward?
- What is the current status of the Buckeye Industrial Mining transload on site at the Wellsville Intermodal Facility? What is the current capacity to transload coal? Will the Buckeye Facility be expanded to handle the Beard coal also?
- Does the proposed project benefit Beard solely or will other existing companies benefit? Please explain how the Wellsville Intermodal Facility will serve customers other than Beard.
- Will the cement, stone, steel, and project cargo mentioned in your letter be used for the Beard project solely?
- What is the job creation timeline for the project (i.e., site preparation vs. construction)?

We appreciate your interest in the Logistics and Distribution Stimulus Program and look forward to reviewing your project.

Sincerely,

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Nyla Potter
Program Coordinator