



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
Don Manzullo

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 22, 2010

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(815)356-9800

Manzullo Seeks Amtrak Stop for McHenry County

[CRYSTAL LAKE] Congressman Don Manzullo (R-IL) today called on Illinois Governor Pat Quinn to designate a stop in McHenry County as part of the state's decision to extend Amtrak passenger rail from Chicago to Dubuque, Iowa.

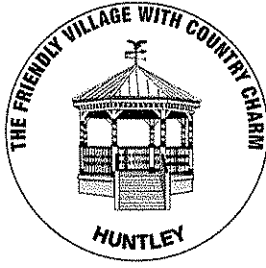
Manzullo, who has worked closely with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) to return Amtrak and commuter rail to northern Illinois, sent a letter to the Governor today requesting an Amtrak stop in either Huntley or Marengo.

The \$60 million in funds necessary to upgrade the tracks for the Chicago to Iowa Amtrak route were included in the state capital bill. Gov. Quinn announced earlier this month Amtrak would follow a northern route on existing tracks running from Elgin's Big Timber Metra station through the counties of McHenry, Boone, Winnebago, Stephenson and JoDaviess counties before crossing into Iowa. Quinn and Amtrak previously announced stops in Belvidere, Rockford, Freeport, and Galena, and Manzullo is requesting a stop in McHenry County.

"Establishing a stop in McHenry County will help increase Amtrak ridership and secure the route's viability while providing tremendous benefits for businesses, tourism, and quality of life in one of the fast-growing collar counties of Chicago," Manzullo said. "Establishing an Amtrak stop in McHenry County could also expedite the eventual extension of Milwaukee District/West Metra commuter rail service from Big Timber to Huntley and Marengo and beyond to Belvidere and Rockford since they will traverse the same tracks."

The mayors of Huntley and Marengo have each submitted letters to Manzullo expressing interest in hosting an Amtrak stop. Manzullo's letter to the Governor as well as the mayors' letters are attached.

(END)



VILLAGE OF HUNTLEY

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April 15, 2010

Congressman Donald Manzullo
101 N. Virginia Street, Suite 170
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Dear Congressman Manzullo:

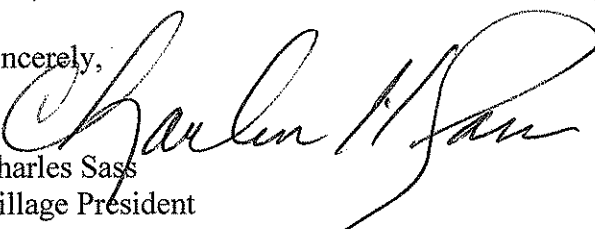
Over the past several years, the Village of Huntley has been closely following the proposed Amtrak service between Chicago, Rockford and Dubuque, Iowa. We are very pleased to learn that the Belvidere route has been selected as this route provides an opportunity to establish Amtrak service in McHenry County.

Based on Amtrak's 2007 Feasibility Report, McHenry County is the only county the route traverses that does not have a possible location identified for a station. The Village of Huntley provides an exceptional opportunity to establish Amtrak service for McHenry County. The Village has a large would-be rider base from Del Webb's Sun City and provides the regional accessibility to draw riders from across both McHenry and Kane County. The Village has also planned for rail transit by adopting Transit-Orientated Development Guidelines, which identifies potential station locations and provides a framework for all aspects of developing a station. Most importantly, the Village has the financial resources to make an Amtrak station a reality.

The Village of Huntley has a history of partnering with the Federal and State government to improve the regional transportation network. The Village understands the importance of these projects and takes a lead role in managing and contributing financially to the projects. This includes being the lead agency and committing \$6 million for the construction of a full interchange at Illinois Route 47 and Interstate 90 and investing over \$5.8 million to widen Illinois Route 47. We also look forward to the opportunity of being the municipality that provides a station for Amtrak service in McHenry County.

I would like to personally thank you, on behalf of the Village of Huntley, for your extraordinary efforts to re-establish Amtrak service through Northern Illinois. This is an exciting opportunity for the region and hopefully McHenry County. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (847) 669-9600 to discuss our dedication to this project.

Sincerely,



Charles Sass
Village President