

THOMAS M. SALMON, CPA
STATE AUDITOR



Commission des transports et de
l'environnement

Déposé le : 19/04/2011

N° CTE-081

Secrétaire : DU

STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

July 28, 2010

Rep. François Rebello
Depute de La Prairie
55, rue Sainte-Pierre, Bureau 115
St. Constant, Quebec
CANADA, J5A 1B9

Dear Rep. Rebello,

It was a pleasure to meet with you on June 21, 2010, in South Burlington, Vermont, to continue our discussion about the important matter of Canada-U.S. passenger rail travel. This meeting was a follow-up to our meeting in New York City in May when Vermont Governor James Douglas introduced us at the Economic Summit put on by the Council of State Governments (CSG).

Also attending our meeting were:

Mr. Joseph Flynn, Transportation Rail Director, Vermont Agency of Transportation
Mr. Joseph Juhasz, Deputy State Auditor
Mr. Stephen Vantine, State Audit Manager
Mr. Xavier Allaire, Management Consultant
Vermont State Senator Phil Scott, Vice Chairman, Vermont Senate Transportation Committee
Vermont State Representative Richard Howrigan, Vermont House Transportation Committee

It is very important that we craft next steps together to address the very real economic opportunity between our two regions. Part of my mission as state auditor is to be a catalyst for good government and promote effectiveness. I'm also very committed to thoughtful government reform.

One of the problems that we agree must be addressed is the border security issue. As I write this, according to a newspaper story by the Associated Press on high speed rail, officials are to meet in Hartford, Connecticut, tomorrow to update the public on where the projects stands. "Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut have received a total of \$160 million in federal stimulus money to link high speed trains....(including) Vermont and Montreal."

The letter you shared with us from Amtrak about border concerns related to custom facilities and changing crews was consistent with the AP article that stated "security issues are obstacles for trains crossing from the United States into Canada."

Clearly, our two countries need to engage in a process that will resolve these issues. I have asked the Vermont Director of Rail Mr. Flynn to begin to compile a quick "situation report" from Vermont's perspective to list:

1. Problem/issues
2. Status
3. Actions required to foster forward progress.

I recommend someone on the Canadian side do the same prior to our next meeting to create a path for success.

I appreciate your commitment to the prosperity and advancement of Vermont and Canada. To be successful, the teamwork and communication will require sustained attention by all. I will speak to you very soon.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Salmon CPA

Thomas M. Salmon, CPA
Vermont State Auditor

cc: Hon. James H. Douglas, Governor