Dr. Bertoline,

The Ports of Indiana is the statewide port authority operating three ports on the Ohio River and Lake Michigan. Our ports contribute over $6 billion in annual economic impact to our region and support more than 50,000 jobs throughout the state of Indiana. The success of our region, our workers, our students and our business heavily depends on how well we’ve prepared talent to succeed in the 21st-century economy. We have great potential to build this talent pipeline and reach future workers as they progress through high school and prepare for post-secondary education and the workforce.

We have long partnered with Purdue University in various ways and see great value in continuing this partnership long into the future. We are supportive of Purdue University’s efforts to develop the Purdue Polytechnic Indianapolis High School, targeting IPS students who have STEM capabilities but may not have the opportunities to excel. We see tremendous value for our various industries in having a school that focuses on learning-by-doing and will graduate students who have deep knowledge, applied skills and experiences in STEM fields. These students will be ready to work in high-demand, high-paying jobs in logistics fields that will fuel our businesses and our economy.

This is an exciting learning opportunity that finds its strength in industry, community participation and collaboration. We’re pleased to be one of those partners and would be happy to facilitate additional connections to many of our industrial partners.

We realize the cornerstone to this charter school’s success is industry partnership. We understand that Purdue is developing curricula with industry input and, in turn, industry will offer hands-on learning opportunities through in-the-field working experience. We are committed to working with Purdue and its organizing partners, EmployIndy and USA Funds, as they continue development activities toward an August 2017 opening. Some of the partnership opportunities we are exploring include:

- Participating in an industry advisory board to help develop the academic model and define and refine the competencies students must master to succeed in the 21st Century economy.
- Hosting internships to provide hands-on experience so students will get an early glimpse into career opportunities and will master concepts they learn in the classroom.
- Participation of students in our annual Indiana Logistics Summit as part of the Logistics U session, a high school workshop focused on introducing students to the logistics industry.

Please accept this letter of support for the Purdue Polytechnic Indianapolis High School. We are committed to partnering with Purdue and the community to deliver this innovative learning model to Indianapolis students.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Rich Cooper, CEO
Ports of Indiana