

August 26, 2020

RE: Milton Logistics Hub – Letter of Support

The Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA) is pleased to continue to lend our support to CN's proposed Milton Logistics Hub project. CIFFA represents some 260 regular member firms from the largest of global multi-national freight forwarding firms to small and medium sized Canadian companies. CIFFA member companies employ tens of thousands of highly skilled international trade and transportation specialists. As a vital component of Canada's global supply chain, freight forwarders facilitate the movement of goods, helping Canadians do business with the world. These global logistics service providers are the foremost experts in cargo transportation solutions and essential partners in advancing the Canadian economy and the economic prosperity of Canadians.

CIFFA first wrote to the Review Panel in August 2017 to express our support for this project and the important benefits it provides. We reiterated this support in another letter in May 2019, and with a presentation during the Review Panel public hearings in summer 2019. We welcome the opportunity to express our support for this project once again through this important process, and to comment on the draft project conditions.

CIFFA's mission is to represent and support members of the Canadian international freight forwarding industry in providing the highest level of quality and professional services to their clients. To do so, we rely on an efficient and fluid supply chain, in which CN plays a critical role. CN's network provides our members with reliable and cost-effective rail service for moving goods across Canada to east and west coast ports for shipment to international markets. In the past year, increased congestion at CN's southern Ontario transportation hub, the Brampton Intermodal Terminal, has resulted in delays and missed appointments that present a considerable obstacle to the fluidity of cargo in this region. This has impacted the ability of Canadian freight forwarders to confidently estimate the timeliness of their shipments, which is one of the most critical aspects of the service they provide to their customers. It is clear that more capacity is needed in this area, and the Milton Logistics Hub represents an excellent solution to this issue. This project will provide much needed capacity to CN's network and relieve pressure on already constrained supply chain infrastructure in the GTHA, Canada's most populous region.

We urge the federal government to approve this project with reasonable conditions that are practical in implementation. It is important that these conditions ensure best practices while not delaying implementation of the project, and that they allow for flexibility to account for variability at other points of the supply chain. CIFFA is confident in CN's ability to develop this project with the same respect for the environment and local communities that they demonstrate in all other aspects of their business.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,



Bruce Rodgers,
Executive Director
Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association