

(March 24, 2006) LIPINSKI TOUTS CREATE PROGRAM TO STATE LEGISLATURE

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Lipinski Speaks on the Future and Continued Success of CREATE

SPRINGFIELD, IL- Congressman Dan Lipinski continued his state-wide push for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program, CREATE, with a visit to the State Capitol in Springfield today.

The CREATE program is a \$1.5 billion plan developed through an unprecedented cooperative effort led by Congressman Lipinski, the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the railroad industry to overhaul freight and passenger rail in the region.

"The State matching funds are critical for the future success of this program," said Lipinski. "Without the State funds, CREATE will not be able to move forward and the region will continue to be stymied by severe rail congestion and pollution."

Lipinski met several key state officials to discuss the importance of CREATE, including, State Rep. Jay Hoffman (D-Collinsville), Chair of the House Transportation Committee, and Budget Director John Filan. The Congressman also joined Tim Martin, the Illinois Secretary of Transportation, and several other state officials and railroad executives at a news conference to discuss the rail improvement program.

"It is extremely important to keep on pace with CREATE and I plan to see this project to fruition," continued Lipinski. "This program will affect the entire state generating hundreds of millions of dollars in construction and job-related economic activity as well as improving quality of life for the whole region.

"Without the funds and participation of State, this project will just not work," said Lipinski. "It is important we maintain this dynamic partnership and continue to work together to secure more funding."