



BIG LIFT LLC LIFT TRUCK SALES AND SERVICE

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1/3/2013

Dear Secretary Schneider,

As the Chief Executive Officer and part owner of a small but fast growing manufacturing company I am always scrambling to do everything possible to ensure the growth and success of my company. Not surprisingly, our most critical success factor is our ability to recruit and retain talented and hardworking employees. **Unfortunately, I am having a difficult time recruiting talent to my organization due to the terrible rush hour traffic on our highways!**

Big Lift LLC is a \$15+ million company headquartered in Lombard, IL that manufactures, distributes and markets electric "walk behind" forklifts. I am proud to say that we grew our revenues at an astounding 44% clip in 2012 largely due to heavy investments in R&D which enabled successful new product introductions. To sustain this growth we will clearly need additional talented employees. **Unfortunately, I have been unable to recruit employees that live in the city of Chicago because the commute on both 290 and 90 are so bad.** It literally takes 1 hour and 20 minutes or more to traverse the 24 miles from Lincoln Park to Lombard each way! I know because I endure the commute each and every day.

I have become so frustrated that I began looking for other employment opportunities myself! Can you or someone in your office help me understand why we do not have carpool lanes or, better yet, variable pricing lanes? The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has recently released a report on congestion pricing that details how almost every other major city has already accomplished these improvements with ample and quantifiable success.

Please let me know what I and other small business managers/owners can do to help advocate for a solution to this MAJOR problem that is hurting the short and long term prospects of Chicago businesses. It seems like with just a bit of focus...this should be a relatively easily addressable problem.

Sincerely,

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CC: Rahm Emanuel, Toni Preckwinkle, Randy Blankenhorn

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