



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

55 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02142

April 6, 2015

Mr. Stan Thompson
518 Beaten Path Road
 Mooresville, NC 28115-8982

Dear Mr. Thompson

Thank you for calling to my attention the world's first hydrogen-powered tram being produced in China. It seems like only a short time has passed since you attended a meeting at the Volpe Center on fuel-cell locomotive technology – yet it was in August 2003. A lot has transpired during the intervening years to get to the point of seeing hydrogen-powered rail equipment in commercial production. No doubt you are especially gratified as a longstanding proponent of fuel cell locomotion, or “Hydrail.”

I am pleased to have played a small role in facilitating your involvement in hydrogen-powered rail concepts. It's remarkable to look back upon the chain of events that began with our initial encounter in the early 1990's that led subsequently to our collaboration in submitting “*The Rise of Telecommuting and Virtual Transportation*” for publication in a 1994 issue of *Transportation Quarterly* published by the Eno Transportation Foundation. As a result of getting to know you and your broader interests, I was able to connect you with my Volpe Center colleagues who were working with the Army on developing a hydrogen-powered locomotive. The rest, as they say, is history.

The upcoming Tenth International Hydrail Conference in 2015 to be held in Charlotte, NC, your role in International Hyrail Education Project, and your leadership of the Hydrogen Economy Advancement Team demonstrate your commitment to sustainable transportation. I'll remember always our professional connection and look forward to your continued success going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary T. Ritter".

Gary T. Ritter, Director
Technology and Data Strategy