



PENNSYLVANIA CENTER FOR
ADAPTED SPORTS

January 4, 2012

Dear Delaware River Port Authority Board Commissioners,

On behalf of our organization, we are writing to ask for your vote in favor of restoring funding in the 2012 Capital Program Budget for an ADA compliant ramp on the Camden side of the Ben Franklin Bridge.

Because it is DRPA's mission "to provide quality transportation services across the river," we feel it is DRPA's responsibility to build the ramp as a 2012 capital project and to make the ramp a priority project.

This ramp will replace a steep and unsafe three flight stair tower that has been in DRPA's 5 Year Capital Program for over five years and was scheduled to begin in January of 2012. The project was Capital Project BF1101.

A new ramp will increase accessibility to an iconic and critical link between Camden and Philadelphia. It will undoubtedly increase usage of the bridge by pedestrians, cyclists and persons using wheelchairs and other such devices. A new ramp will also help improve the livability of many residents in Camden and Philadelphia who do not have access to a car or who want to walk, run or bike across the Bridge for commuting or recreation. Lastly, a new ramp will leverage the federal, state and local funds that are being expended by Cooper's Ferry Partnership, the Delaware River Waterfront Development Corporation, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and the William Penn Foundation, and USDOT's TIGER grant award to the City of Camden and the City of Philadelphia to create a seamless connection between the Camden GreenWay to Philadelphia's portion of the East Coast Greenway.

DRPA should build the Ben Franklin Bridge ramp on the south side in Camden to actively support these investments to improve transportation options for Southeastern Pennsylvania and South New Jersey.

Sincerely yours,

Isabel Bohn
Executive Director