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September 11, 2009

The Honorable Mayor Wong
718 Main St
Fitchburg, MA 01420-3125

Re: Wachusett Gardner Extension Commuter Rail Station

Dear Honorable Mayor Wong:

OMNOVA Solutions Inc. ("OMNOVA") supports the city's plans for expanding commuter rail service adjacent to our facility. We believe that this effort improves the sustainability of our community by significantly reducing automobile traffic, emissions, fuel use, and road wear. The city's plans coincide with our goal of reestablishing rail service to our Fitchburg production facility.

We have been reviewing options for several months as well as estimating cost for a project to provide rail service to our plant instead of relying exclusively on truck transportation. As you know our facility has a decommissioned rail line entering the location which would need to be rebuilt and reconnected to the main line. In addition, the project would require installation of multiple raw material unloading stations. Up to this point we have not been able to justify this project due to the extensive cost and expense involved in rebuilding and connecting to the main line. We believe that this commuter rail project could significantly reduce these costs and increase the viability of our project.

Our Fitchburg facility is increasingly disadvantaged, relative to our competition (both here in the U.S. and overseas), by not having access to competitive freight costs while incurring the higher fuel costs associated with over the road transport. This has been a limiting factor in our ability to consistently maintain a profitable business at this location. OMNOVA's other U.S. chemical plants all have rail service available, which provides a more favorable cost structure at those locations.

Additional benefits of rail service to our plant would include a significant reduction in truck traffic through the city of up to 700 roundtrips per year. This would also provide a net reduction of diesel fuel usage of 10 to 15 thousand gallons per year. The construction of our internal rail facility would create an estimated 5 temporary jobs. Most importantly it would significantly improve profitability of the facility and become a more attractive place to invest and grow in the future. Our desire is to not only maintain existing operations including the 28 full time associates we presently employ, but to invest in and grow the facility to double the present output, where an additional 7 full time positions would be needed.

We understand and support the City of Fitchburg's plans to provide this commuter rail station and realize that a portion of OMNOVA's land may be required to complete the project. We are

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open to discussing this in support of the community need, recognizing that this project will also provide value to our business as well as all of the other employers within our industrial park. We look forward to working towards a mutually beneficial solution in support of his worthy project.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel T. Flint". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" being the most prominent part.

Daniel T. Flint
Director of Operations
Fitchburg Plant