

March 16, 2011

Daniel Inouye, Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
United States Capitol, Room S-128  
Washington, DC 20510

Thad Cochran, Vice Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
United States Capitol, Room S-206  
Washington, DC 20510

Patty Murray, Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing, Urban Development, and  
Related Agencies  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 133  
Washington, DC 20510

Susan Collins, Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation Housing, Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 123  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Appropriations Leaders:

We, the undersigned organizations, call upon Congress to continue job-creating investment in our nations' transportation network. As the Senate debates an appropriate level of funding for the FY11 CR, Americans continue to go about their lives, commuting to work, school, and elsewhere on our nation's crumbling infrastructure. Long, congested commutes and crowded buses and trains keep Americans stuck in traffic and spending more money on ever-rising gas prices with no end in sight.

Transportation investments are proven job creators, providing work to the hard-hit construction industry and creating long-term value to the economy. Investment in transportation programs today will help pull the economy out of its slump, while creating a better quality of life and healthier communities for your constituents. The cuts passed in HR 1 are particularly troublesome – targeting those very transportation projects that Americans rely on and slowing projects in the pipeline, further delaying construction job opportunities. We call on you to turn this tide, and ensure that the Senate CR proposal:

- Continues funding for the U.S. Department of Transportation's TIGER program in FY11, which strengthens the economy, creates jobs, reduces gridlock, and provides safe, low-cost transportation choices to our citizens in metropolitan and rural areas.
- Restores the cuts in funding to Amtrak for capital projects, which provides important transportation links to small and large communities alike.
- Continues funding High Speed Rail projects, vital to providing high-speed transportation in high density and economically important corridors.
- Restores funding cuts to the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program. This program provides federal matching funds for development and construction of new public transit lines. These projects put people to work, provide low-cost transportation choices, improve our health and often leverage private investment along the corridors.
- Restores funding for FTA's Energy Efficiency grants. This program provides federal funds to help improve the energy efficiency of our nation's transit systems in metropolitan and rural areas, lowering operating costs and reducing our dependency on oil.

We urge you to support these vital transportation programs in the FY11 continuing resolution.

Sincerely,

cc:

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell