

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 8, 2005

The Honorable Don Young
Chairman
U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Oberstar
Ranking Member
U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
U.S. Senate Environment and Public
Works Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Jeffords
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Environment and Public
Works Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Colleagues:

As the **surface transportation reauthorization process** begins in the 109th Congress, we urge you to craft legislation that addresses the concerns of the Michigan Congressional Delegation.

As a perennial donor state, equity is Michigan's top priority for reauthorization. Michigan's actual highway rate of return in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) was approximately 88 percent of our contributions to the Highway Trust Fund. We understand the realities of funding a vital, nationwide interstate system; however, our state has substantial highway infrastructure needs that are going unmet. A 95 percent rate of return of highway funds would help close this gap and bring Michigan closer to receiving its fair share. As you craft the reauthorization legislation, we urge you to include a minimum rate of return of 95 percent for all states.

To achieve true equity, it is critical that the 95 percent rate of return we are requesting be calculated on the 93 percent of all Highway Account funding that exists in current law. This coverage allows donor states to secure reasonably credible guaranteed funding levels. Fewer programs covered under the scope of minimum guarantee would mean less guaranteed funding to all States. We believe a reduction of covered programs would represent an insurmountable step backwards in the long fight Michigan has undertaken to achieve legitimate equity in our rate of return. As you develop your bills, we urge you to calculate rates of return on no less of a scope than contained in TEA-21.

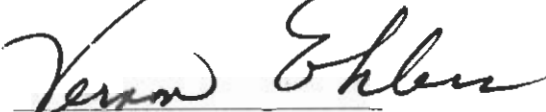
Thank you for considering these important donor state concerns. We hope to continue to work together to constructively engage you, your staffs, the bicameral

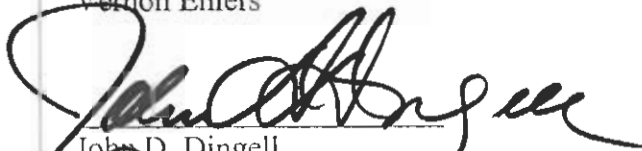
leadership, and the Administration in achieving a surface transportation reauthorization bill that will be fair and provide a reliable and equitable funding stream to meet Michigan's transportation needs.

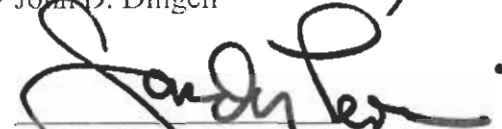
Thank you for your consideration of our request.

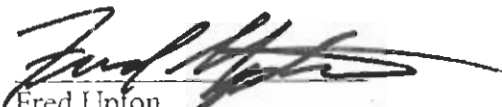
Sincerely,

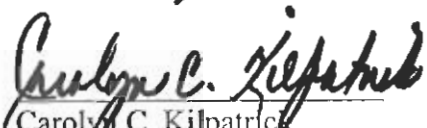

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Carolyn C. Kilpatrick


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Bart Stupak


Candice Miller


Carl Levin

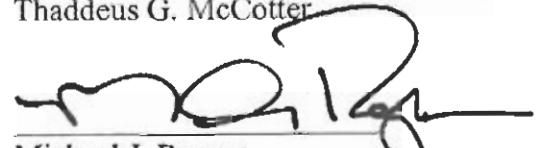

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