

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2011

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are writing to respectfully urge your full support for a long-term transportation reauthorization. Such legislation will address our urgent transportation and infrastructure needs, create jobs for Americans and give the private sector important incentives to locate, invest and hire here in the United States.

The need for a long-term transportation authorization is clear to any American who drives a car or truck, rides the rails or flies in an airplane. First, our aging infrastructure risks creating a safety hazard for Americans. The American Society for Civil Engineers (ASCE) gives our transportation infrastructure a grade of “D,” and a recent federal report estimated that more than 11 percent of the nation’s bridges need timely repairs to avoid unsafe structural deficiencies.

Second, transportation backlogs increase costs for small businesses and hurt job creation and economic growth. The ASCE reports that the cost of failing to invest in the nation’s roads and bridges would total \$2.1 trillion in lost economic growth by 2020, costing 877,000 jobs. The ASCE went on to find that congestion by 2020 could cost us \$276 billion a year in lost time and inefficiencies. As a result of using more fuel, lost productivity and accelerated auto-wear on worsening roads, the overall cost to a family’s household budget would be \$1,060 a year.

To address these urgent economic, transportation and safety needs, we believe our country needs a six-year, fully funded and paid-for transportation reauthorization with investments above current funding. Short-term extensions fail to recognize that meaningful, large-scale transportation projects take years to plan, approve and implement. The traditional six-year time-frame allows state departments of transportation to prepare for substantial infrastructure projects.

A modern, safe and efficient transportation authorization will not only create jobs now for the construction industry – facing a 13.3 percent unemployment rate – but it will also set the table for long-term job creation and economic growth. Global employers considering a presence in the United States will require a modern transportation infrastructure that enables them to move their finished products to the global market place in a timely and cost-efficient manner. Our aging and congested system is a strong disincentive for firms to expand their presence in the United States and create jobs here at home. A long-term transportation authorization will help make America more competitive in the global marketplace and create jobs in all sectors of our economy.

Given our fiscal challenges, we recognize that a six-year transportation authorization will need to be paid-for. We stand willing to work with your Administration on a variety of funding options. We have many ideas, but realize they are just a start and are happy to discuss others with you as well.

Thank you in advance for your help in supporting a long-term transportation reauthorization that will create a modern, safe and efficient infrastructure system and create jobs and promote long-term economic growth. We look forward to working with you further on this issue.

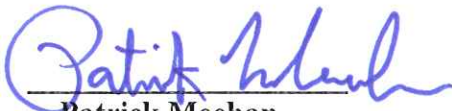
Sincerely,



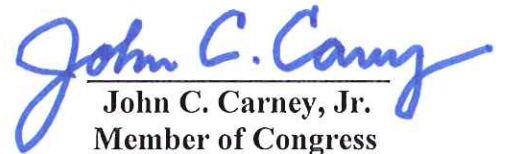
Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



John C. Carney, Jr.
Member of Congress



Robert T. Schilling
Member of Congress



Daniel Liptinski
Member of Congress



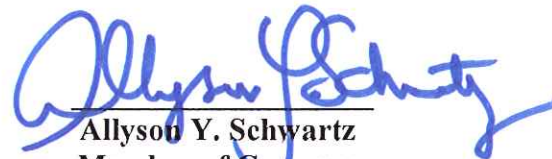
Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



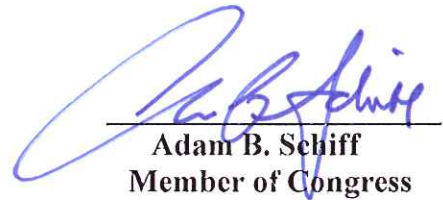
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



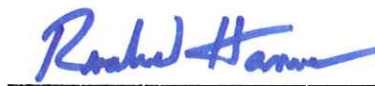
Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress



Charles F. Bass
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Richard L. Hanna
Member of Congress



Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



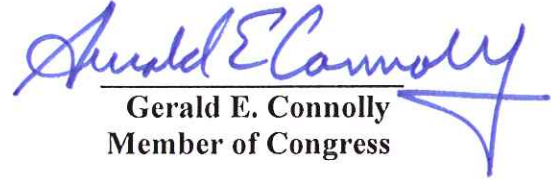
Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



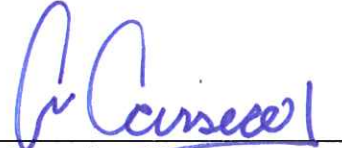
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



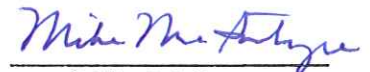
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



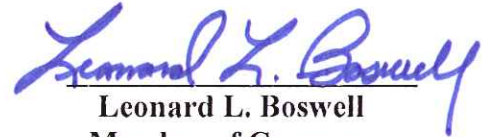
Francisco R. Canesco
Member of Congress



Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



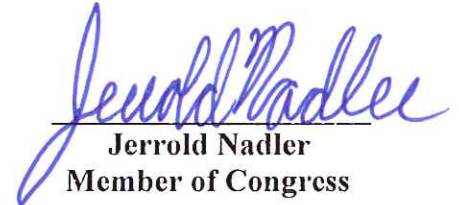
Billy Long
Member of Congress



Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress



Candice S. Miller
Member of Congress



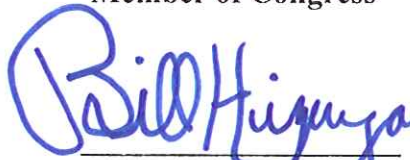
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



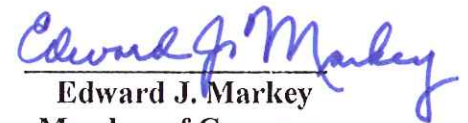
Tim Scott
Member of Congress



Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



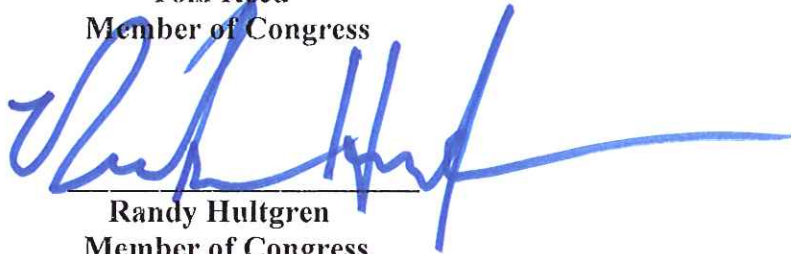
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



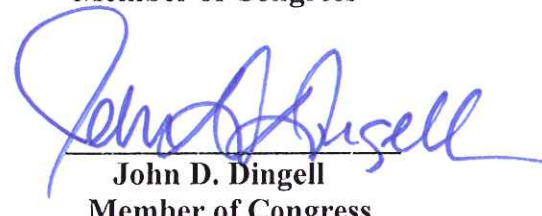
Tom Reed
Member of Congress



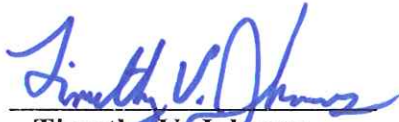
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



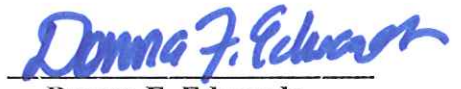
Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



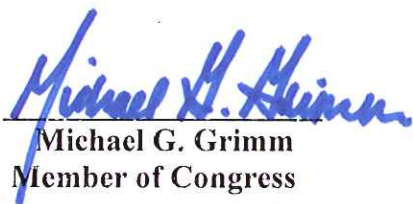
Tim Holden
Member of Congress



Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



Joe Baca
Member of Congress



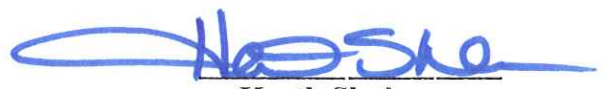
Michael G. Grimm
Member of Congress



Jason Altmire
Member of Congress



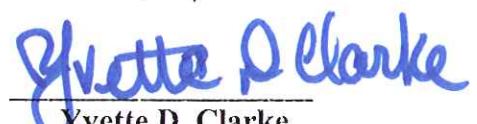
Christopher P. Gibson
Member of Congress



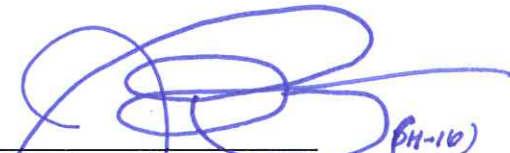
Heath Shuler
Member of Congress




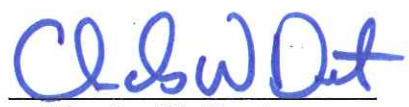
Robert J. Dold
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Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


James B. Renacci
Member of Congress

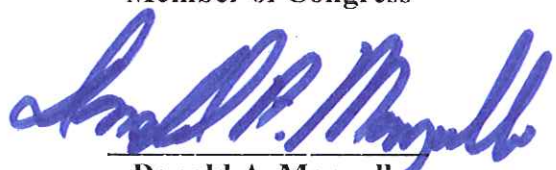

Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress

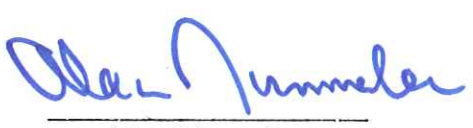

Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress


Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress



Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress


Joe Wilson
Member of Congress


Donald A. Manzullo
Member of Congress


Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress

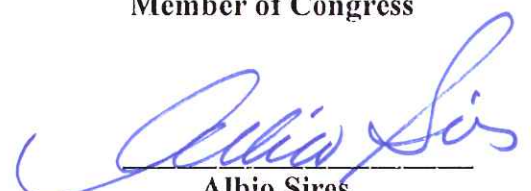

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

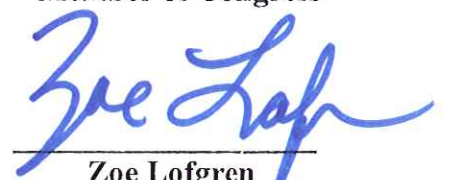

Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress


Bob Filner
Member of Congress

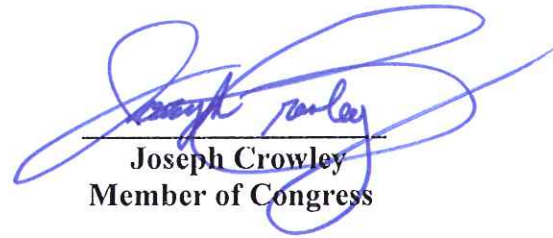

Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



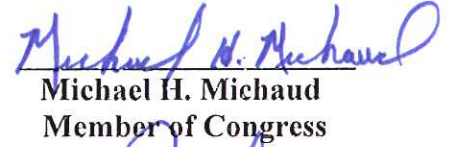
John R. Carter
Member of Congress



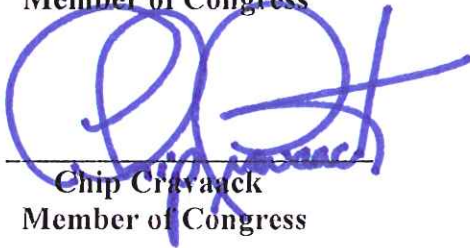
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



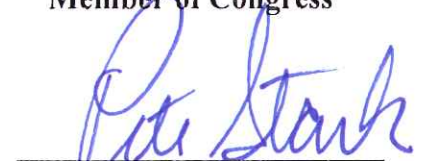
Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



Chip Cravaack
Member of Congress



Fortney Pete Stark
Member of Congress



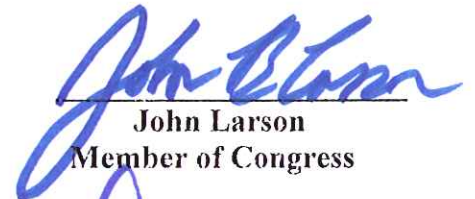
Judy Biggert
Member of Congress



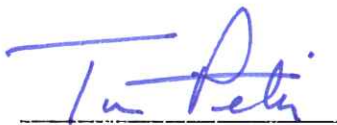
C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



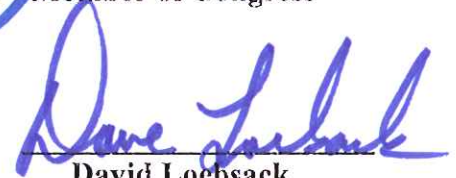
Frank C. Guinta
Member of Congress



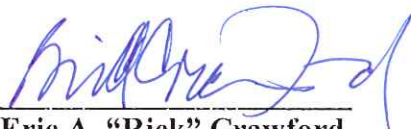
John Larson
Member of Congress



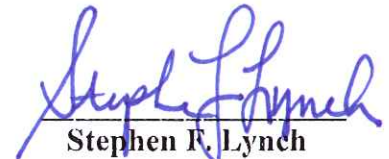
Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress



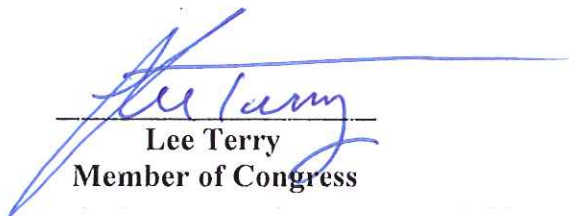
David Loebsack
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



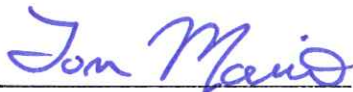
Lee Terry
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Tom Marino
Member of Congress



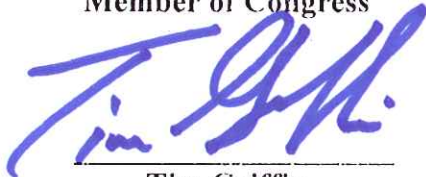
Jon Runyan
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



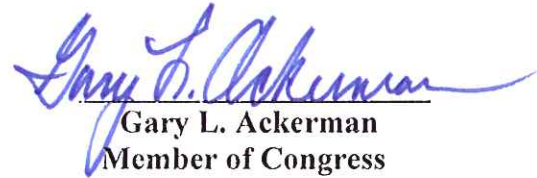
Dan Boren
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



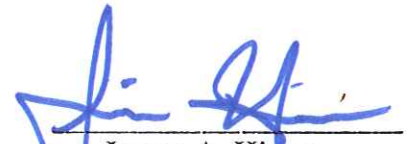
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress



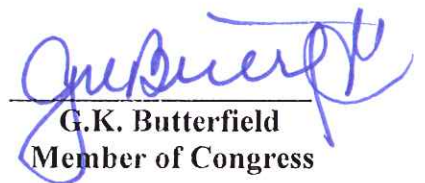
Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress




James A. Himes
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



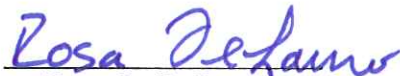
G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress




Jim Costa
Member of Congress



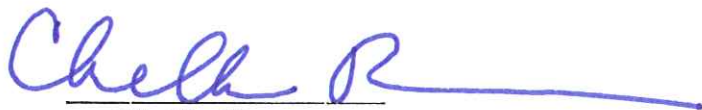
David Price
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



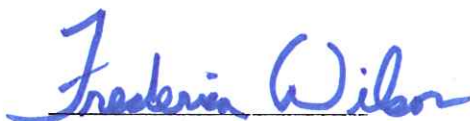
Christopher S. Murphy
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



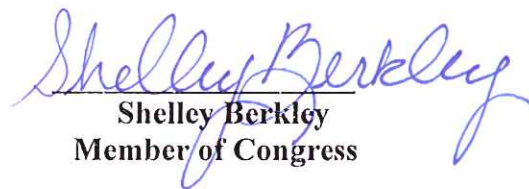
Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress




Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress