

August 1, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Mica, Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Max Baucus, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Camp, Chairman  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1139 E Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives:

As leaders of Chambers of Commerce from across the country, we recognize that our nation faces many difficult economic and financial challenges. Maintaining a strong infrastructure, creating jobs and controlling government spending are three of those challenges.

Maintaining a strong transportation infrastructure, creating jobs and balancing the budget are not mutually exclusive – they can, and should, go hand in hand.

That is why we are writing in support of a robust and innovative transportation reauthorization bill that will address the transportation needs of our nation.

We applaud the fact that both the Senate and the House have advanced proposals for consideration this year because we see transportation infrastructure as a top priority for our cities, states and nation. We specifically encourage you to consider innovative proposals that use local and private sector dollars to move projects forward as soon as possible.

One such innovation is “America Fast Forward” the expansion of the existing TIFIA program (Transportation Infrastructure and Innovation Act) to give state and local agencies the ability to accelerate the financing and construction of local highway & transit projects. TIFIA provides credit assistance for surface transportation projects of national and regional significance at very little cost to the federal government. The result is new jobs, traffic relief, economic development and an improved environment for everyone.

The signers of this letter understand the significant demand for federal dollars. With so many in the construction industry out of work and the cost of projects at a historic low, now is the time to pass a robust transportation reauthorization bill and innovative solutions like America Fast Forward.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Greater Oklahoma City Chamber

San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

Tulsa Metro Chamber of Commerce

Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce

Lubbock Chamber of Commerce

Seattle Chamber of Commerce

Orange County Business Council

The Greater San Antonio Chamber of  
Commerce

Portland Business Alliance, Greater  
Portland's Chamber of Commerce

Little Rock Regional Chamber of  
Commerce

Greater Albuquerque Chamber of  
Commerce

Greater Louisville Inc.

Charlotte Chamber of Commerce

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce

The Bridgeport Regional Business Council

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber

Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of  
Commerce

Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber

Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

El Paso Chamber of Commerce

Daytona Chamber of Commerce

Greater Shreveport Chamber of  
Commerce

The Business Council of Fairfield County

Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Newark Regional Business Partnership

Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of  
Commerce

Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and  
Industry

Jacksonville Regional Chamber of  
Commerce