

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 17, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid and Senator McConnell,

We write to strongly urge that the upcoming funding resolution for the remainder of fiscal year 2007 supports Congress' commitment to invest in America's infrastructure. We fear that if the commitments made in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) are not honored, our States will face major economic disruption that will cost jobs and stifle economic growth.

The Highway Trust Fund, including the Mass Transit Account, has a special status in the Federal budget in that the funds are directly collected for specified purposes, and are designated for use only for those purposes. Since these budgetary "firewalls" were established in 1998, States and our constituents have had the certainty of guaranteed funding for these critical infrastructure programs.

The highway and transit programs permit States to plan for long-term investment by effectively advancing local funds that are reimbursed by the Federal trust fund. Multiple year bills such as SAFETEA-LU allow States to enter into long-term construction contracts with the assurance that Federal reimbursements will be available.

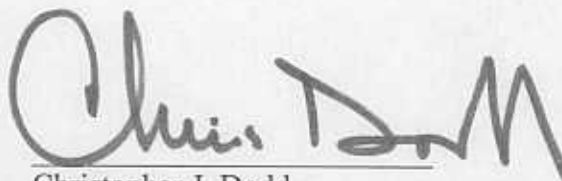
Healthy investment in highway and transit programs, including safety and environmental improvements, improves Americans' quality of life, and is the lifeblood of the Nation's economic growth.

We urge that the funding resolution provide funding for the Department of Transportation highway and transit programs at the levels called for in SAFETEA-LU.

Sincerely,



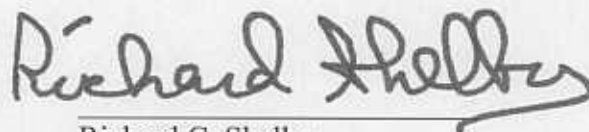
Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Environment and
Public Works



Christopher J. Dodd
Chairman
Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs



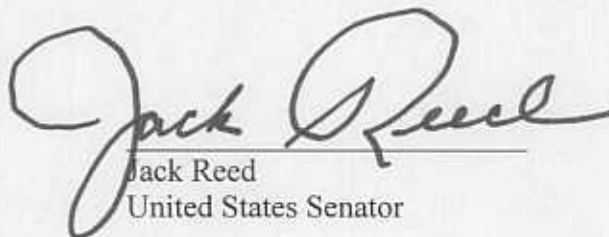
James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and
and Public Works



Richard C. Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs



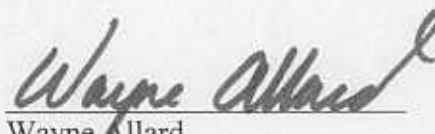
Max Baucus
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Christopher S. Bond
United States Senator



Wayne Allard
United States Senator