

June 4, 2012

Re: Transportation Reauthorization Conference

Dear Senators and Representatives on the Conference Committee:

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. **As the conference committee on transportation reauthorization nears the deadline, we call on you to write bipartisan legislation that addresses the urgent transportation needs of our nation and send it to the House and Senate for approval. A strong bill will adequately invest in our infrastructure, advance mobility and save and create jobs.**

Our coalition sent letters in August and September of last year and February of this year, urging Congress to pass a robust transportation reauthorization. Since then, our coalition has continued to grow, united in agreement that transportation and infrastructure investment plays a critical role in our nation's economy to support commerce and create jobs, while laying the groundwork for 21st century competitiveness.

We applaud the fact that both the Senate and the House have advanced proposals for immediate consideration because we see transportation infrastructure as a top priority for our cities, states and nation. Nine short term extensions have only served as a stop-gap to addressing our long-term needs.

We specifically encourage you to consider the inclusion of innovative proposals that use local and private sector dollars to move projects forward as soon as possible. "America Fast Forward," as outlined in the Senate bill, would expand 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.

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, passing a robust transportation reauthorization by June 30th is the best thing Congress could do to provide certainty to our transportation planners and put America back to work and on the right track for the 21st century. **We strongly urge the conference committee to write a bill that addresses the urgent**

transportation needs of our nation and send it to the House and Senate for approval.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Los Angeles Area Chamber of
Commerce

Tulsa Metro Chamber of Commerce

Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Springfield Chamber of Commerce
(MO)

Seattle Chamber of Commerce

Orange County Business Council

Long Beach Area Chamber of
Commerce

Toledo Regional Chamber of
Commerce

Lubbock Chamber of Commerce

El Paso Chamber of Commerce

The Greater San Antonio Chamber of
Commerce

Portland Business Alliance, Greater
Portland's Chamber of Commerce

Greater Shreveport Chamber of
Commerce

Greater Oklahoma City Chamber

San Francisco 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

Daytona 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

Commerce Lexington, Inc.

Lake Champlain Regional Chamber
of Commerce

MetroHartford Alliance

Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of
Commerce

Greater Topeka Chamber

Austin Chamber of Commerce

Greater Spokane Incorporated

Memphis Chamber of Commerce

Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce

Nashville Area Chamber of
Commerce

Greater Columbia Chamber of
Commerce

Greater Wilmington Chamber of
Commerce

Greater Durham Chamber of
Commerce

Minneapolis Regional Chamber of
Commerce

Broken Arrow Chamber of
Commerce

Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce

Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of
Commerce

Asheville Area Chamber of
Commerce

Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce