

December 9, 2011

Dear Senator,

America's roads, bridges, and transit systems are in dire need of repair. At the same time, Americans are in dire need of jobs. Investments in transportation can solve both those problems by putting people back to work rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure and creating a 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation system that can reduce our dependence on foreign oil and help America compete in a global economy.

We support the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's bi-partisan effort to advance a fully-funded surface reauthorization bill, which will provide assurance that our transportation systems will move people and goods more efficiently and help our economy grow.

The current draft authorization bill laudably provides a long-awaited roadmap and resources for the long-term transportation projects America needs to sustain job creation and strengthen our economy. Right now, Europe and China spend two and three times their proportion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on infrastructure, respectively, compared to the United States. To compete effectively in a global economy, we need a 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation system, not a 20<sup>th</sup> century one.

Each day the U.S. spends an estimated \$1 billion on foreign oil, driven largely by the transportation sector, which accounts for two-thirds of our oil use and nearly one-third of our greenhouse gas pollution. We need to greatly improve the efficiency of our transportation system to reduce that vast outflow of money for overseas oil, and put that money back into American infrastructure and our economy.

Investing in roads, bridges, tunnels, rail, transit, and better biking and walking will deliver gains in efficiency and can create millions of jobs in infrastructure, manufacturing, and operations. As the reauthorization bill moves forward, we emphasize the need to direct robust investments to all modes that improve the efficiency of our transportation system, increase the transparency and accountability of current Buy America provisions, and provide incentives for greater domestic content to support domestic manufacturers, which will foster job creation throughout the US economy.

The Senate has taken a significant step in this direction. As you move forward, it is imperative the House of Representatives follows suit and advances a final bill that robustly funds transportation at least at the level proposed by the Senate, if not improving it by extending that level of investment over a longer timeframe.

An overhaul of our nation's transportation system is long overdue. BlueGreen Alliance and our partners support a bill that builds a cleaner, modern transportation system to move people and goods more efficiently, makes our economy more productive, creates jobs, and reduces dependence on foreign oil.

Sincerely,



David Foster  
Executive Director, BlueGreen Alliance