



DAVID A. RAYMOND
PRESIDENT & CEO

May 14, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chair
Committee on Environment & Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Vitter
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment & Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chair
Subcommittee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Boxer, Vitter, Carper and Barrasso:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the voice of the nation’s engineering industry – I am writing to express strong support for your bill to reauthorize and strengthen federal highway programs. We encourage your efforts to advance this bipartisan measure through the Senate, as the infrastructure investments from this legislation will reap significant economic dividends across the country.

Infrastructure is the backbone of the United States economy. A strong and efficient transportation system is critical for protecting public health and safety, promoting commerce and keeping America competitive. The long-term funding commitments provided in your bill will provide states and local transportation agencies the funding certainty they need to deliver their programs and ensure that our roads and bridges can support the U.S. economy and a high quality of life.

We are pleased that the bill builds on the reforms of MAP-21 to reduce regulatory burdens, promote innovation and foster private sector participation in project delivery. In addition, the research and development of system financing alternatives will help address questions about the implementation, interoperability and public acceptance of various user-fee mechanisms.

Of course, as you know well, Congress must also act to secure the long-term fiscal stability of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). According to the latest projections, the balance of the HTF will be depleted as early as July, forcing rationed or delayed payments to states unless new revenues are provided or other funds transferred. We are already seeing many states postpone projects due to the uncertainty. Beyond the immediate crisis, we need a long-term solution that provides

stable and growing revenues to support the investment levels necessary to improve safety, reduce congestion and enhance mobility.

I applaud you for your commitment to the nation's transportation infrastructure and look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David A. Raymond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David A. Raymond
President & CEO
American Council of Engineering Companies