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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3311

DEPUTY AT-LARGE WHIP

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND TRADE
CHAIRMAN

February 23, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232 United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Office of the House Republican Leader
H-204 United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Boehner:

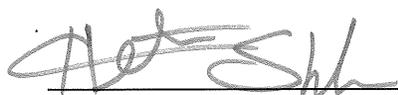
As you are aware, the nation's transportation programs must be extended prior to the expiration of SAFETEA-LU on February 28th in order to avoid disruptions in vital transportation projects and the loss of thousands of construction jobs that are associated with them. The House and Senate have yet to agree on the details of this extension of SAFETEA-LU authorization, nor has a vehicle for its inclusion been decided upon. As such, it is impossible for some of us to commit our support at this time. However, we all agree that a particular portion of the authorization extension which allocates funding for "Projects of National Significance" and "National Corridor" projects should follow the methods outlined in the House-passed version of the extension, which are far more equitable than those currently proposed by the Senate.

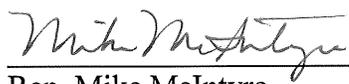
Monies in these accounts were meant to promote projects of national significance through 2009, with the majority of the funds being earmarked for projects in only four states. The Senate has proposed continuing funding for these accounts in the upcoming SAFETEA-LU extension and giving these funds to the states in the same ratio that states received them during the initial authorization. This would continue to give 58% of the roughly \$932 million in these accounts to four states and would provide absolutely no funding to 22 states, including North Carolina. Given that the upcoming extension is for a relatively long period of 15 months, and that there are clearly projects of national significance in many of the states that will have no opportunity to compete for that funding, we believe the Senate's method of allocating these funds is inequitable.

A more logical and fair approach to allocating these funds was taken in the SAFETEA-LU extension passed by the House at the end of 2009. In the House version, the \$932 million in discretionary funds from the "Projects of National Significance" and "National Corridor" accounts would be made available through a competitive grant process. This would enable all 50 states to compete for grants to conduct projects that fit the requirements of each program, thus ensuring that the most worthy projects around the country have a chance to be funded.

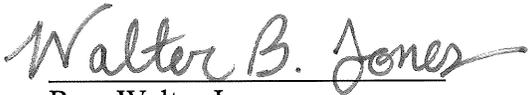
We ask that you take this into consideration as the House and Senate negotiate the extension of SAFETEA-LU. We ask that funds from the two aforementioned programs are allocated equitably and that projects of national significance in all parts of the country are given a fair opportunity for funding.

Sincerely,

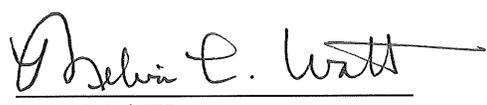

Rep. Heath Shuler


Rep. Mike McIntyre

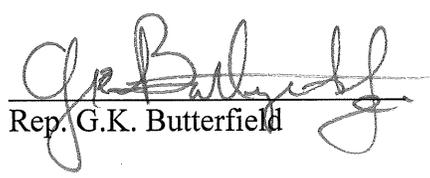

Rep. David Price


Rep. Walter Jones


Rep. Larry Kissell


Rep. Mel Watt


Rep. Brad Miller


Rep. G.K. Butterfield

Cc: Senator Richard Burr
Senator Kay Hagan