

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 23, 2011

The Honorable John L. Mica  
Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn Building

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn Building

Dear Chairman Mica and Ranking Member Rahall:

We write to express our support for a robust Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS) program, with a strong focus on economic measures, in the upcoming reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act.

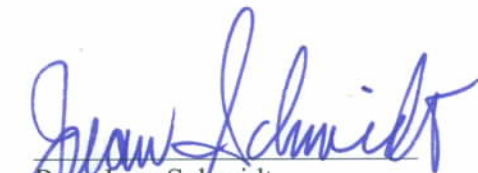
According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, “productivity growth in freight transportation has long been a driving force for the growth of U.S. overall productivity and contributed directly to the growth of the U.S. GDP.” The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) calls freight transportation a “big part of the economy.” The value generated by transportation services in moving goods and people through the transit network is about 5% of Gross Domestic Product. Yet, we have failed to adequately steer the resources needed for safe and efficient movement of freight.


Often, the critical freight infrastructure projects are large in scale, multimodal and multi-jurisdictional. As a result, these projects have difficulty receiving funding through the existing formula programs. PNRS, however, was designed to address large capital investment needs, and freight projects would compete very well in the program.

Fully funding a competitive and merit-based PNRS program in the upcoming bill – and strengthening the criteria to focus more specifically on large-scale projects that have a broad and substantial economic impact – will help ensure the nation’s goods movement infrastructure is strengthened. Ensuring a dedicated stream of funding for large-scale infrastructure projects is critical to U.S. productivity and global competitiveness.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Rep. Jean Schmidt  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Geoff Davis  
Member of Congress

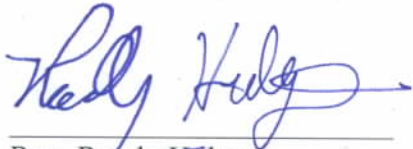
  
Rep. Earl Blumenthal  
Member of Congress



Rep. Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



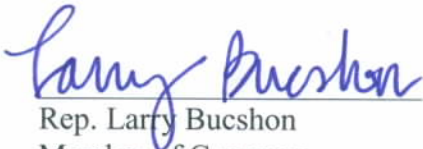
Rep. Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



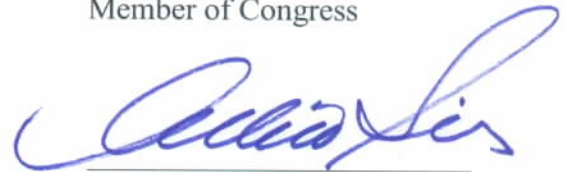
Rep. Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress



Rep. Norman D. Dicks  
Member of Congress



Rep. Larry Bucshon  
Member of Congress



Rep. Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



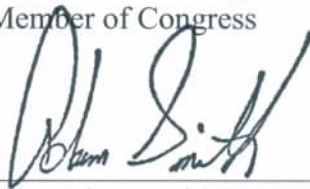
Rep. Dan Lipinski  
Member of Congress



Rep. Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



Rep. Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Rep. Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



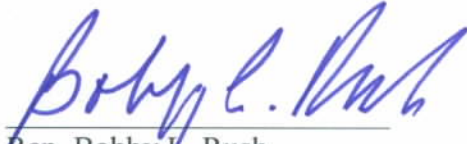
Rep. John Lewis  
Member of Congress



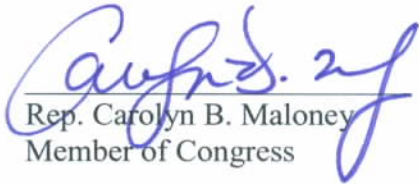
Rep. Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress



Rep. James P. Moran  
Member of Congress



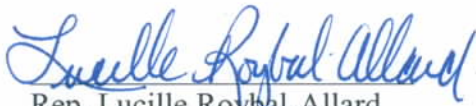
Rep. Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



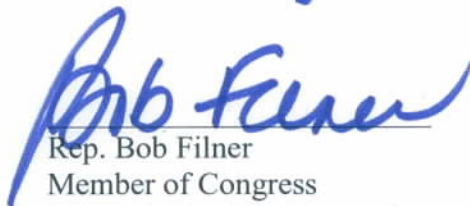
Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Rep. Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



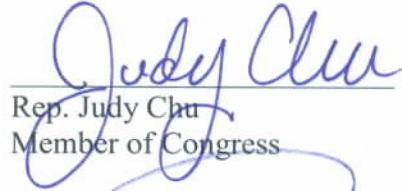
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



Rep. Bob Filner  
Member of Congress



Rep. Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Rep. Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Rep. David Wu  
Member of Congress



Rep. Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress



Rep. Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



Rep. Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress