

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.

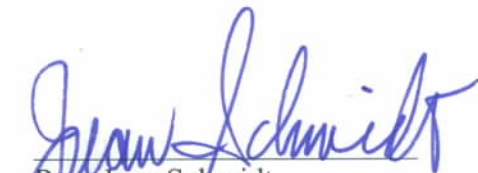
According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, “productivity growth in freight transportation has long been a driving force for the growth of U.S. overall productivity and contributed directly to the growth of the U.S. GDP.” The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) calls freight transportation 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

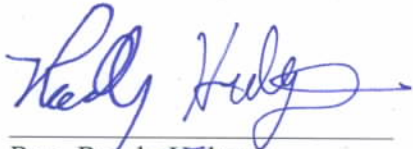

Rep. Earl Blumenthal
Member of Congress



Rep. Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



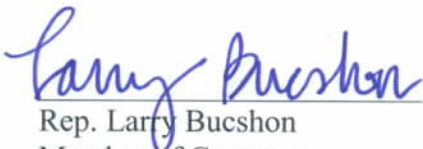
Rep. Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



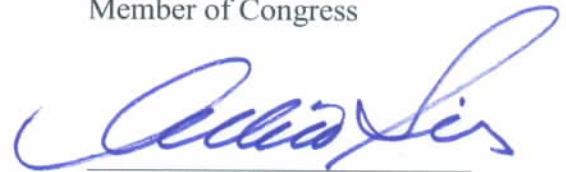
Rep. Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



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



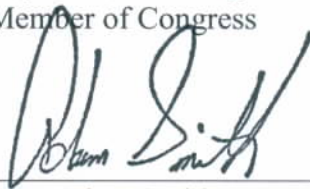
Rep. Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



Rep. Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Rep. Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Rep. Adam Smith
Member of Congress



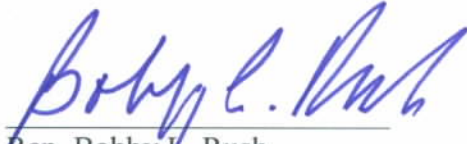
Rep. John Lewis
Member of Congress



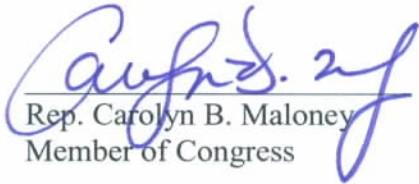
Rep. Jay Inslee
Member of Congress



Rep. James P. Moran
Member of Congress



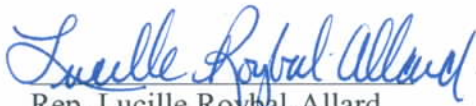
Rep. Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



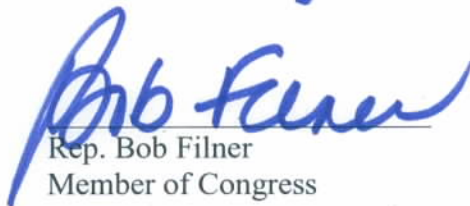
Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Rep. Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



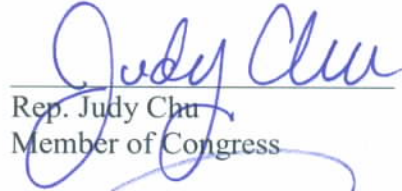
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



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