



DAVID A. RAYMOND  
PRESIDENT & CEO

November 8, 2011

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

The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment & Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Transportation &  
Infrastructure  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senators Boxer, Inhofe, Baucus and Vitter:

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) supports your bill to reauthorize and reform our nation's surface transportation programs. We strongly encourage your efforts to move this bipartisan legislation through the committee, as the infrastructure investments from this legislation will reap significant economic dividends across the country.

As you know, America's engineering industry plays a critical role in working with state departments of transportation and other governmental entities to design and deliver transportation improvements to the public. ACEC members see firsthand the funding needs facing the nation's transportation system, as well as the need for reforms to make it easier to move good projects forward.

For this reason, the engineering industry strongly supports many of the program reforms in your bill, particularly the sections of Subtitle C that provide for accelerated project delivery decisions, elimination of duplicative reviews, expansion of categorical exclusions and early property acquisition. These are policies we have long advocated in order to facilitate more efficient project delivery and bring project benefits to the public faster. ACEC also supports the consolidation of numerous federal highway programs, which will enhance state flexibility while focusing on core national needs, and improvements to the bridge program to develop a risk-based approach to inspections and repair.

ACEC also endorses the expansion of the Transportation Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program from its current level to \$1 billion annually. This additional investment, coupled with broader financing terms and conditions, will leverage even more state and non-

governmental investment in transportation facilities, unleashing long-term infrastructure improvements and job creation opportunities.

Maintaining at least current funding levels for highway programs, as provided in your bill, is critically important in the current economic environment. Transportation infrastructure is a key element to economic growth because it supports commerce, facilitates trade and puts people to work in sustainable jobs. By contrast, short-sighted underinvestment in our nation's infrastructure will only exacerbate persistent problems of congested roads, deficient bridges and overburdened transit systems.

We understand that Chairman Baucus has been working to put a financing package together to support the funding levels in this bill. We strongly encourage you to continue to work with the members of the Finance Committee to move forward with legislation as quickly as possible.

We know you recognize the incontrovertible relationship between infrastructure investment, economic health and fiscal responsibility. Thank you for your efforts to identify solutions for the federal surface transportation program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher J. Christie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a distinct "J" at the end.