



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

DAVID A. RAYMOND
PRESIDENT & CEO

September 9, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
S-221
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
S-230
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid and Senator McConnell,

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), I urge you to quickly pass H.R. 6532, a bill that provides an immediate legislative fix to the shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund.

As you know, last week, Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters notified the states that the Highway Trust Fund is nearly depleted, which is resulting in reduced payments to the states. Unless Congress acts very soon, state highway programs will experience severe disruptions and officials will be forced to cancel or postpone important projects. This would be disastrous during a time when the economy is slow and the country faces substantial highway maintenance and improvement needs.

H.R. 6532 would reimburse the Highway Trust Fund from the General Fund, shoring up the balance for the coming fiscal year and essentially restoring \$8 billion to the Trust Fund that was taken out during final negotiations over TEA-21 in 1998. The House passed the bill with an overwhelming bipartisan 387-37 vote, and the Administration has expressed its willingness to support this critical legislation.

ACEC members – numbering more than 5,700 firms throughout the country representing almost half a million employees – are engaged in a wide range of engineering works that propel the nation's economy and enhance and safeguard America's quality of life. Transportation investment is vital to the nation, both for near-term job creation and long-term economic growth. We cannot jeopardize the nation's economic recovery by permitting the Highway Trust Fund to remain insolvent.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

David A. Raymond
President & CEO