



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

DAVID A. RAYMOND
PRESIDENT & CEO

July 22, 2008

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), I urge you to support H.R. 6532, legislation that provides a critical solution to the impending shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund.

As you know, budget forecasts for the Highway Trust Fund are grim. A projected \$3.7 billion deficit in FY'09, caused by emergency outlays and lower-than-expected revenues, will lead to a **cut of nearly \$14 billion to the highway program** as early as October 2008, the beginning of the new fiscal year. This represents a **34 percent reduction in funding, resulting in 380,000 lost jobs** at a time when the economy is slow and the country faces dramatic gaps between available funding and necessary highway maintenance and improvement.

H.R. 6532 would reimburse the Highway Trust Fund from the General Fund, essentially restoring \$8 billion to the Trust Fund that was taken out during final negotiations over TEA-21 in 1998. This transfer would make up for the FY'09 shortfall and provide sufficient resources to avert the impending reduction in highway funding. Since the proposed \$8 billion credit is intergovernmental, the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation indicate that this fix does not have any revenue effect or constitute a spending outlay, and thus does not violate pay-go rules.

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 fall into deficit.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Raymond", written in a cursive style.