

May 7, 2014

Dear Members of Congress:

Transportation infrastructure investments in our metropolitan regions are key to America's long-term economic competitiveness. That's why leaders of metropolitan regional chambers of commerce and economic development organizations from across the country urge you to address the impending insolvency of the federal Highway Trust Fund.

Without a sustainable source of funding, the Trust Fund will be in a deep deficit that will require major cuts in federal highway and transit funding or a potential halt of the entire federal transportation program. Indeed, many states have already halted certain projects in anticipation of such cuts. We need your support to ensure the viability of this critical component of the nation's economy, including its ability to accelerate the all too slow recovery of the jobs lost since the onset of the deep recession that started in 2008.

We are all members of the Metro Cities Council at the American Chamber of Commerce Executives and we represent businesses of all sizes that form the backbone of the nation's economy. Our business members know a reliable and resilient transportation network is vital to construction employment, getting other workers to their jobs, ensuring efficient and timely freight delivery, and providing residents with an outstanding quality of life, which is critical to attracting a talented workforce.

Municipalities, counties, and states across the country are stepping up to identify sources of additional transportation revenue. However, without a strong federal partner, we will not be able to meet the demands of maintaining and expanding our transportation systems on which robust national and local economies depend.

As Congress considers reauthorization of MAP-21 over the next several months, we urge you to address both the federal funding shortfall and the impediments to empowering metropolitan regions to advance locally-driven innovative solutions to our transportation challenges.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Oz Griebel, President and CEO of the MetroHartford Alliance, who is representing all of the organizations listed below on this communication. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Rick Baker, President and CEO, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

Sandy Baruah, President and CEO, Detroit Regional Chamber

Kelly Brough, President and CEO, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

David Brown, President, Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce

Jay Byers, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Des Moines Partnership

Brian Carley, President and CEO, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber

Jay Chesshir, President and CEO, Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce

Dan Colantone, President and CEO, Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce
Michael Dalby, President, Columbus Chamber
Daniel Davis, President and CEO, JAX Chamber
Richard Dayoub, President, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Bryan Derreberry, President and CEO, Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
Mark Eagan, President and CEO, Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber
Dottie Gallagher-Cohen, President and CEO, Buffalo Niagara Partnership
R. Nelson “Oz” Griebel, President and CEO, MetroHartford Alliance
Paul Guzzi, President and CEO, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Bob Harvey, President and CEO, Greater Houston Partnership
Tom Humphries, President and CEO, Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber
Tony Iannelli, President and CEO, Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce
Todd Klingel, President and CEO, Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
Matt Mahood, President and CEO, San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce
Kristin McMillan, President and CEO, Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
Sherry Menor-McNamara, President and CEO, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii
Bob Morgan, President, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce
Michael Neal, President and CEO, Tulsa Regional Chamber
Roger Niello, President and CEO, Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Duane O’Neill, President and CEO, Greater Jackson Partnership
Richard Perez, President, Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
Dale Petroskey, President and CEO, Dallas Regional Chamber
Eileen Pickett, Acting CEO, Greater Louisville Inc. – The Metro Chamber of Commerce
Gary Plummer, President and CEO, Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce
Joe Raso, President and CEO, Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance
Joe Reagan, President and CEO, St. Louis Regional Chamber
Bob Rohrlack, President and CEO, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce
Mike Rollins, President, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
Joe Roman, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Cleveland Partnership
Jerry Sanders, President and CEO, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
Kim Scheeler, President and CEO, Greater Richmond Chamber
Harvey Schmitt, President and CEO, Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Ralph Schulz, President, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

Carlo Scissura, President and CEO, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
Tim Sheehy, President, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
Bill Sisson, President and CEO, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Jacob Stuart, President, Central Florida Partnership
Bill Thornton, President and CEO, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
Gary Toebben, President and CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Mark V'Soske, President, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Mike Varney, President and CEO, Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Laurie White, President and CEO, Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce
Roy Williams, President and CEO, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce
Rob Wonderling, President and CEO, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce