

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Dirksen 184
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Hart 125
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

As the Subcommittee begins its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write in support of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program and urge the inclusion of robust funding for this important program. We have long supported investments that tackle the complex transportation needs of our communities through the TIGER program.

Since its creation in 2009, TIGER has awarded \$4.6 billion to 381 innovative, multimodal projects in every state in the nation, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, with 134 of these projects supporting rural and tribal communities. As a result, critical investments have been made in road, rail, transit, and port projects of regional and national significance.

Each year the demand for TIGER far exceeds the amount of funding available. In 2015, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) received 625 applications requesting \$9.8 billion in funding for the seventh round of the program. This amounted to almost 20 times more than the \$500 million included in the Fiscal Year 2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act. Over the life of the program, DOT has received more than 6,700 applications for more than \$134 billion in transportation projects throughout the country, which clearly demonstrates the need for continued investment in the TIGER program.

TIGER is a unique, cost-effective, and competitive program that leverages private, state, and local investment to solve complex transportation and economic development challenges. For every federal dollar invested, an average of two non-federal dollars goes into a TIGER project.

This program serves as an important complement to DOT's traditional formula-based programs, providing flexibility for state and local agencies to work with partners to achieve creative transportation solutions. We have all seen firsthand the difference TIGER can make in our states.

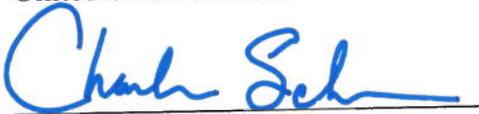
Thank you for your consideration of this critical program, which puts people to work, boosts regional economies, and improves our nation's infrastructure.

Sincerely,

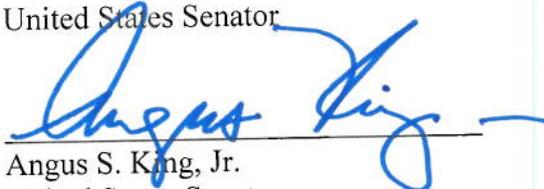

Patty Murray
United States Senator

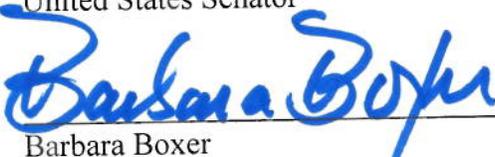

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator


Brian Schatz
United States Senator


Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

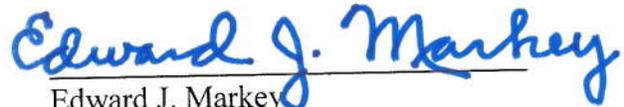

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

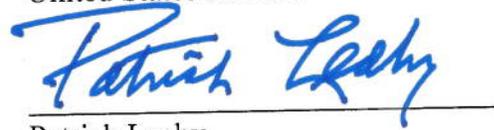

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator


Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

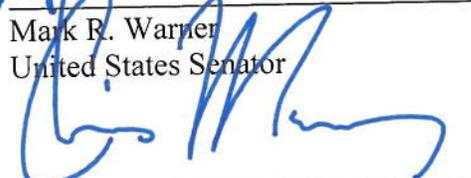

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

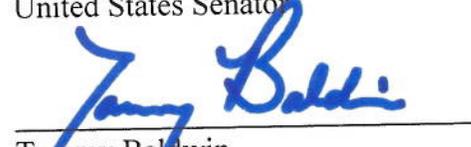

Roger Wicker
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

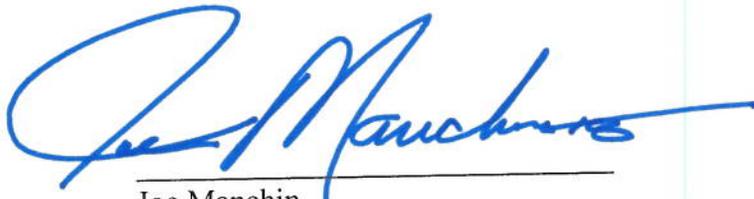

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator


Christopher Murphy
United States Senator


Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator


Bill Nelson
United States Senator


Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Joe Manchin
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



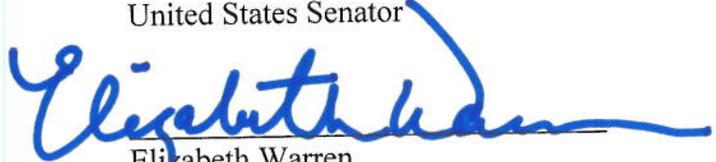
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



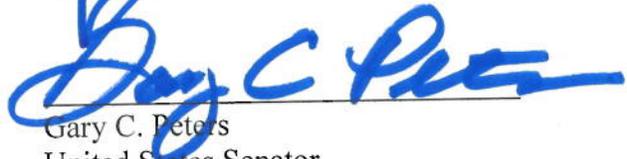
Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



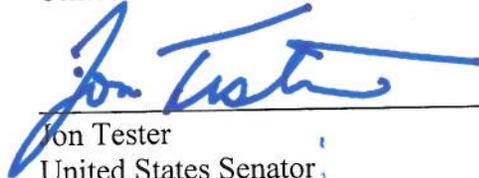
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



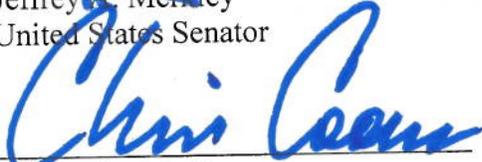
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



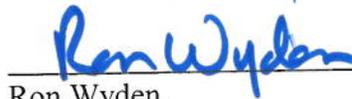
Jeffrey A. Menckley
United States Senator



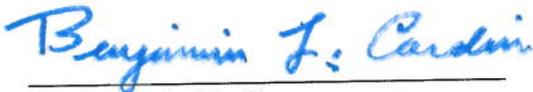
Jon Tester
United States Senator



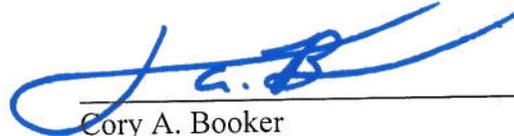
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



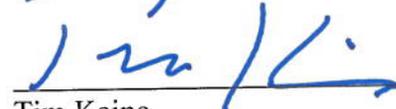
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



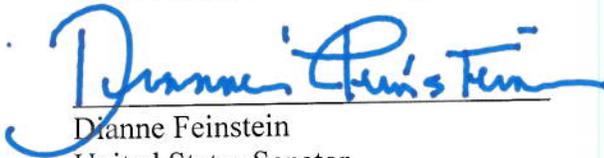
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Tom Udall

Tom Udall
United States Senator