

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 20, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

Our national infrastructure faces serious challenges and the need for continued investment to address aging infrastructure, spur economic development, and support good middle class jobs cannot be overstated. That is why we have serious concerns that the Fiscal Year 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill approved by the House Committee on Appropriations on July 17 has fallen short in supporting critical infrastructure projects by eliminating funding for the National Infrastructure Investments program (TIGER). As you continue your work on the Fiscal Year 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to include robust funding for this effective program.

Since its creation in 2009, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has awarded \$5.1 billion to 421 innovative, multimodal projects in every state in the nation, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Each year the demand for TIGER far exceeds the amount of funding available. Over the life of the program, DOT has received more than 7,300 applications for more than \$165 billion in transportation projects throughout the country, which clearly demonstrates the need for continued investment in the TIGER program.

The TIGER program enjoys support from Democrats and Republicans alike, as we have seen firsthand the difference the program can make in our states. In January during a Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation hearing, Secretary Chao noted TIGER is “one area of great agreement” in Congress and that the funding levels for this program were a “modest sum.” Not funding TIGER would disregard the vast bipartisan support for this high-impact, cost-effective, and competitive program which leverages private, state, and local investment. It would also hurt states, local governments, ports, and transit agencies throughout America working to solve complex multimodal transportation challenges.

This unique program puts people to work, boosts regional economies, and improves infrastructure in our states and across the country. TIGER merits continued investment, and we urge you to reject proposals to eliminate the program and to provide robust funding for TIGER.

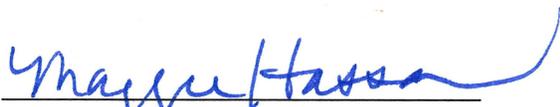
Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



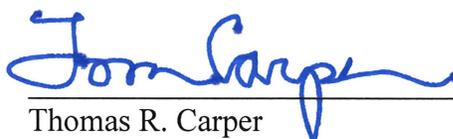
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



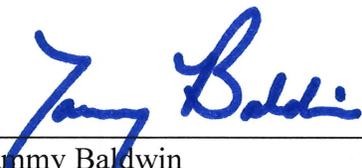
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



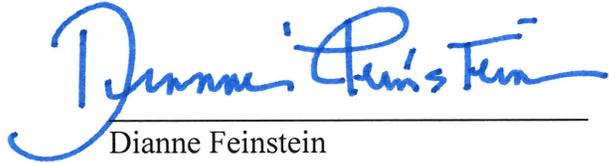
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



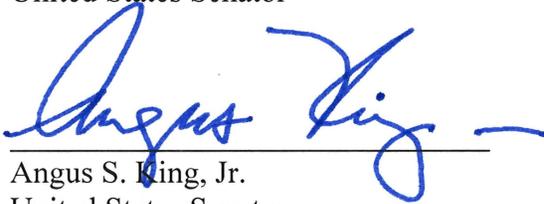
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



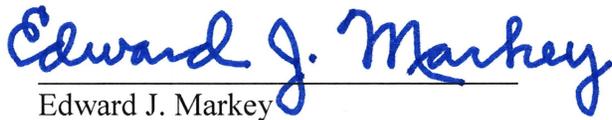
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



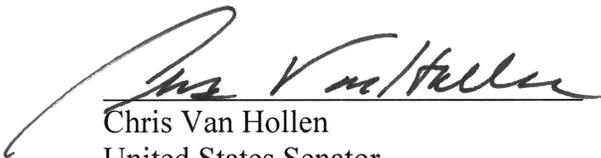
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



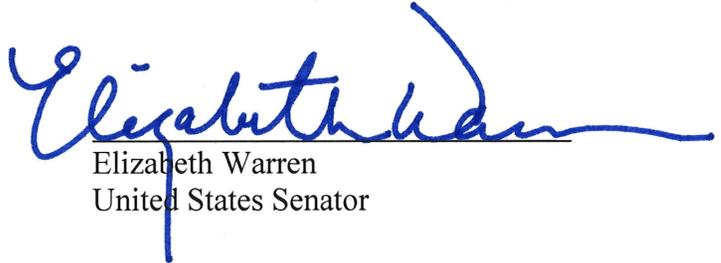
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator