June 12, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Neal:

As the Committee on Ways and Means continues to work toward a much-needed update of the U.S. tax code, you have an opportunity to fix the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). A long-term solution to the HTF structural revenue deficit would promote increased transportation infrastructure investment and meaningful economic growth in every state.

While recent laws authorizing the federal surface transportation programs have greatly improved the effectiveness and efficiency of these programs, Congress has relied on general fund transfers and other offsets from federal resources unrelated to the surface transportation programs since 2008. Without resolving the issues facing the HTF prior to the expiration of the FAST Act in 2020, Congress will be required to either pass more short-term stopgap measures or provide additional offsets to support a multi-year bill.

A safe, modern, and efficient transportation network is critical to the economic success of this country. It allows businesses to move their products across the country while facilitating access to domestic markets and suppliers, which makes it more cost-effective for companies to manufacture goods in the United States. Simply put, if states are unable to rely on timely reimbursements from the HTF for work performed, projects will be halted, improvements to road safety and congestion relief will be jeopardized, and America’s infrastructure will fall further behind the rest of the world. This would put our businesses—and the American worker—at a significant disadvantage in the competitive global economy.

Over the past 30 years, all HTF revenue enhancements have been included in larger tax and deficit reduction packages. Any HTF solution should entail a long-term, dedicated, user-based revenue stream that can support the transportation infrastructure investment supported by President Trump and Members of Congress from both parties.

As the Committee on Ways and Means continues to pursue tax reform, we urge you to include a long-term solution for the HTF and we stand ready to work in partnership to reach this critical goal. Not only do our roads, bridges, and public transportation facilities depend on a positive, long-term solution, but the American economy does as well.

Sincerely,

Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Highways and Transit

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
Randy Weber  
Member of Congress

Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence  
Member of Congress

Ryan Costello  
Member of Congress

Elizabeth Esty  
Member of Congress

Tom MacArthur  
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Paul Mitchell  
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper  
Member of Congress

John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress
John J. Duncan
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Joyce Beatty
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David P. Joyce
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J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Peter King
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Andy Barr
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David Cicilline
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Jack Bergman
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William R. Keating
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Don Young  
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John Yarmuth  
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Chris Collins  
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Norma J. Torres  
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Darin LaHood  
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Nanette Diaz Barragan  
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Mark Meadows  
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Bobby Rush  
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Frank Lucas  
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch  
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress

Dan Lipinski  
Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
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Claudia Tenney  
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Cheri Bustos  
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Rob Bishop  
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Steve Cohen  
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Dan Newhouse  
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Bill Foster  
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Duncan Hunter  
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Rick Larsen  
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Ted Budd  
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Shelia Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Tom Cole  
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon  
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson  
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Michael R. Turner  
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Luis V. Gutierrez  
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Steve Womack  
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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

Mia Love  
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Zoe Lofgren  
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Steve Chabot  
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Pramila Jayapal  
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Markwayne Mullin  
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Debbie Dingell  
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Bill Flores  
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Stephanie Murphy  
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John Shimkus  
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A. Donald McEachin  
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Greg Walden  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress