United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 20, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid, McConnell, Baucus, and Grassley,

One of the lesser recognized effects of the recent economic downturn and rising energy prices has been a slowdown in projected revenues into the federal Highway Trust Fund. As a result, states are now facing the possibility of a $14 billion, or 34 percent, cut in federal highway funding in FY 2009. We believe there are a variety of ways to avert the pending crisis and urge you to work with us to resolve this as soon as possible.

The federal highway program provides almost 45 percent of the annual capital investment in U.S. highway and bridge improvements. A reduction in highway investment of the magnitude currently projected would have far-ranging consequences. According to newly released data from the Federal Highway Administration, the pending revenue shortfall in FY 2009, if left unaddressed, would cost over 485,000 American jobs. Furthermore, ongoing efforts to reduce traffic congestion, improve safety and enhance long-term economic productivity would be severely disrupted by a large cut in highway investment.

We urge you to support fixing this looming crisis this fiscal year.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and we look forward to working with you to preserve critical investment in our nation's highway infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer

Chris Dodd

Richard Shelby

Frank R. Lautenberg

Kit Bond

Bernard Sanders

Lamar Alexander

John Z. Sarnee

Hillary Rodham Clinton

David Vitter

[illegible]

John Barrasso

Byron L. Dorgan

Amy Klobuchar

[illegible]

Ben Cardin

Jon Tester

[illegible]

Debbie Stabenow

Arlen Specter

George V. Voinovich

Jim Johnson

Pat Roberts

Susan M. Collins

Robert F. Bennett

Sam Brownback

Patrick Leahy

Carl Levin

Kay Bailey Hutchison

Bob Carey, Jr.

Mike Enzi

Saxby Chambliss

Mike Crapo

Herb Kohl

Pete V Domenici

Robert Menendez

Norm Coleman

Lisa Murkowski

Barbara A. Mikulski

Dianne Feinstein

Norm Feingold

Ted Stevens

Tom Harkin

Ben Benjamin Nelson

John E. Sunnunu

Joe Biden

Elizabeth Dole

Bill Nelson

Wayne Allard

Blanche L. Lincoln

John Cornyn

Ken Salazar

Jack Reed

[illegible]

Sherrod Brown

Ron Wyden

Tom Carper

Jay Rockefeller

Mark Pryor