

DAVID LOEBSACK
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

February 26, 2013

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The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Latham
Chairman
Transportation Subcommittee
2358-A Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ed Pastor
Ranking Member
Transportation Subcommittee
1016 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Latham, and Ranking Member Pastor;

I write to bring to your attention an issue of great importance for our nation's transportation system and the numerous significant projects waiting to move forward across the country. I am pleased the President last July signed into law the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and specifically want to highlight a portion of the legislation dealing with nationally and regionally significant transportation projects critical to economic development opportunities, job creation, and safety in our communities.

As you may be aware, contained in MAP-21 is an authorization of \$500 million for Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS) for Fiscal Year 2013. Unfortunately, the six-month continuing resolution, H.Res.778, did not contain any funding for PNRS. As the final FY13 Appropriations process further takes shape with H.Res.778 expiring on March 27, 2013, I respectfully request full funding be provided for this critical program to ensure large scale infrastructure projects can move forward in a timely fashion and that the House work with the Senate to ensure the PNRS program meets bipartisan goals of creating jobs and growing our economy.

For too long, we have been neglecting our infrastructure. The American Society of Civil Engineers gave our infrastructure a D in 2009 and estimated \$2.2 trillion will be needed over the next five years to rebuild roads, bridges, water lines, sewage systems, and other infrastructure which have reached the end of their useful life. Further, a bipartisan panel led by two former transportation secretaries recently estimated the annual gap between current transportation funding resources and the amount needed to maintain and improve the system range from \$134 billion to \$262 billion each year through 2035.

While MAP-21 takes steps to address these issues broadly, large-scale transportation projects need specific attention and should be a priority in Congress as MAP-21 was passed with broad bipartisan support. I am pleased and encouraged to see the President talking about similar ideas to PNRS in his recently released plan for investing in infrastructure and creating jobs. Moving forward, PNRS will generate national economic benefits, expand much-needed jobs in construction and related industries that have been hit hard in the recession, expand business opportunities, reduce congestion, aid commerce in traveling to and from our communities, and would – most importantly – improve safety for our constituents’ families.

I know you understand the importance of transportation and infrastructure investments for our nation’s continued growth, and again respectfully urge you to ensure that as the FY13 Appropriations process moves forward, full funding be provided for this critical PNRS program. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Loeb sack". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dave Loeb sack
Member of Congress