

***Letter to Senator Durbin and Representatives DeFazio, Carson, Ryan and Slaughter Supporting Efforts to Introduce Public Protections on the Privatization of Transportation Assets***

June 29, 2011

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Richard Durbin,

We write to support your efforts for responsible rules governing public-private partnerships for existing transportation infrastructure.

With so many of our nation's roads, bridges, transit, rail and other infrastructure in a state of disrepair, America needs major investment in our transportation assets and their operation. Given the increased interest and activity in public-private partnerships (PPPs) for leases, sales and concessions of transportation assets, we the undersigned call in support of Congress to create a set of ground rules.

When it comes to America's existing transportation assets, these rules should:

- Provide a clear process for investors, other stakeholders and the public alike.
- Ensure taxpayers receive value for past investments in these assets.
- Make transparent the anticipated effects of proposed PPPs for user fees and workers at these assets.
- Ensure plans for adequate maintenance and operation of public assets and their return in a state of good repair.
- Create rules for assets to revert to public control in event of bankruptcy.
- Eliminate possible conflicts of interest.
- Assess whether the transaction creates better public and financial benefit than a similar transaction using public financing.
- Ensure that the nation's interstate commerce, public health, environment, or homeland security will not be adversely impacted.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

U.S. Public Interest Research Group  
All Aboard Ohio  
Amalgamated Transit Union  
Buzzcar  
Center on Policy Initiative  
Center for Sustainable Urban Development  
Central Arizonans for a Sustainable Economy (CASE)  
CEOs for Cities  
Corporate Ethics International  
Faith Coalition for the Common Good (Springfield, IL)  
Gamaliel of California (statewide Gamaliel structure)  
Gamaliel of Illinois  
Gamaliel of Metro Chicago  
Genesis (Bay Area organization in California)  
Illinois Public Interest Research Group  
Keystone Research Center  
Madison Area Bus Advocates (Wisconsin)  
National Association of State Highway and Transportation Unions (NASHTU)  
National Corridors Initiative  
National Employment Law Project  
Ohio Higher Education Rail Network  
Ohio Public Interest Research Group  
Oregon State Public Interest Research Group  
Partnership for Working Families  
Policy Matters Ohio  
PolicyLink  
Progressive States Action  
Reconnecting America  
Smart Growth America  
South Florida Jobs with Justice  
Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO  
Transportation Equity Network  
Transportation for America  
Virginians for High Speed Rail  
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families  
Working Partnerships USA