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United States Senate

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

October 5, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

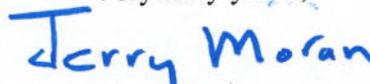
Dear Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe:

I support your efforts to pass a long-term authorization of the Surface Transportation Act that is fiscally responsible, prioritizes programs that effectively serve Americans, and demonstrates sufficient return on the investment of taxpayer dollars. States and contractors need certainty about the federal government's commitment to maintaining our nation's highways. While the short-term extension through March 2012 is important, I believe it is time Congress come together to pass a long-term authorization that provides certainty.

As you know, highway construction projects are unique in that they require many years of planning and coordination. Without the stability of a long-term authorization, state departments of transportation will find it difficult to award further bids and maintenance projects on existing roads and bridges may be suspended. In my state alone, the state department of transportation has 95 projects currently under construction that would be suspended if there is a prolonged delay in federal reimbursements to contractors. Neither state governments nor contractors can operate effectively with such a cloud of uncertainty hovering over them. The federal government must provide certainty for state planning to be effective and for contractors to make long-term business decisions.

The consequences of failing to pass a long-term authorization are vast for the states we represent and the nation as a whole. Congress has an opportunity to demonstrate that Washington can still complete work on the important items that are vital to our communities. I look forward to working with you to ensure Congress provides states and the construction industry the certainty it needs by passing a long-term authorization of the Surface Transportation Act.

Very truly yours,


Jerry Moran

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