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October 21, 2015

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

On behalf of the 3 million skilled craft professionals that comprise North America's Building Trades Unions, I write to urge support for moving the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015 forward.

I first want to commend the bipartisan work of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Under your leadership, for the first time in roughly a decade, the House will consider a bipartisan, long-term surface transportation bill. By eschewing the short-term extensions that have unfortunately become all too commonplace, the House can move forward in providing state and local governments with the certainty they require to move forward on complex construction projects. While the funding levels fall far short of what my members had hoped for, and while I remain hopeful the Committee reaches consensus on a bill that does not jeopardize highway safety, the House should move the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015 forward. In doing so, the House can move to a conference with the Senate, and craft a final bill that can be signed by the President which creates jobs, increases highway safety, and improves the flow of commerce across the nation.

There can be no disagreement on the fact that the condition of our nation's transportation infrastructure is woefully inadequate. Thousands of bridges across the country are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Miles upon miles of roads are in dire need of repair. As a result, the condition of our transportation infrastructure poses a direct threat to the safety of the travelling public and the economic growth of our nation. Our current course is unsustainable, and unacceptable.

By moving forward and enacting a long-term surface transportation reauthorization now, we can more effectively meet our current needs, increase safety, alleviate congestion and improve the movement of goods to market. The enactment of a long-term highway bill will also create tens of thousands of good, middle-class wage jobs across the construction sector. These jobs are critical to Building Trades members and their families. These hard-working Americans cannot afford kicking the can down the road, which I might add is crumbling, once again.

On behalf of the hard working, highly skilled craft professionals I am proud to represent, I urge the House to move the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2015 forward.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean McGarvey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sean" being more prominent and the last name "McGarvey" following in a similar style.

Sean McGarvey
President