



LIUNA!

October 20, 2015

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The Honorable Bill Shuster, Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

On behalf of the 500,000 members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), I would like to commend you for introducing the *Surface Transportation Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2015* (STRRA), a multiyear surface transportation reauthorization bill. If enacted, this bipartisan legislation will provide state and local governments with certainty in transportation funding, as well as important policy reforms to ensure that federal funding for vital transportation projects are invested wisely.

Our Nation's economy relies on transportation infrastructure. However, the transportation system that was once the envy of the world has now fallen into disrepair -- putting lives at risk and jeopardizing our economic competitiveness. Yet, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, 170,000 miles of our roads are in poor condition.

The statistics are shocking. Nearly a fourth of bridges are deficient or obsolete, and poor road conditions contribute to a third of all traffic fatalities. Deteriorating roads cost motorists approximately \$500 every year for gas they waste due to traffic congestion and repairs due to faulty roads. This unfair and regressive *pothole tax* is a direct result of the Federal Government's refusal to grow and maintain our vital transportation networks.

The U.S. Department of Transportation estimates that traffic congestion costs commuters and businesses \$170 billion a year due to 4 billion hours spent in delays, placing a significant drag on competitiveness. The Federal Highway Administration estimates that each dollar spent on road, highway and bridge improvements results in an average benefit of \$5.20 in the form of reduced vehicle maintenance costs, reduced delays, reduced fuel consumption, improved safety, reduced road and bridge maintenance costs and reduced emissions as a result of improved traffic flow.

Feel the Power



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A long-term reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs is needed to build and maintain safe and efficient transportation systems that will promote our economic competitiveness in the future. Furthermore, without the certainty of a multi-year reauthorization, current problems will become harder to solve as conditions worsen and land, labor, and materials get more expensive. Without a long term bill there will be continued uncertainty and erratic funding for critical infrastructure investments and the public and private sectors would continue to respond by delaying projects, withdrawing investment, and laying off employees.

We commend you both, along with Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chairman Sam Graves and Ranking Minority Member Eleanor Holmes Norton, for working in a bipartisan manner. Your willingness to put aside the partisanship that is plaguing Congress and work together to try to pass legislation that is good for the Nation is encouraging.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry O'Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

TERRY O'SULLIVAN
General President

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cc: Members of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee