



Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association

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March 14, 2017

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2134 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: "Penny for Progress" Infrastructure Funding Legislation

Dear Ranking Member DeFazio,

On behalf of the 158,000 independent operators and professional drivers who comprise the membership of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA), we wish to thank you for introducing an infrastructure funding proposal that offers an opportunity for meaningful investment in our nation's surface transportation system. The "Penny for Progress" legislation is a fiscally responsible approach that will help ensure highways are not only brought into a state of good repair, but can also be maintained. We believe your idea has a lot of merit and we look forward to participating in discussions as Congress develops solutions for long term highway authorization.

Our members know first-hand the safety and economic consequences of underinvestment in infrastructure. Whether its heavy congestion, poor road conditions, or structurally deficient bridges, our drivers experience the nation's current infrastructure crisis on a daily basis. Long-term solutions that do not unfairly burden and redundantly tax the hard working men and women who drive a truck must be pursued and implemented.

"Penny For Progress" addresses these problems by building on the dedicated user fee revenue model that has served our nation well since the Interstate Highway System was established in 1956. The proposal represents an opportunity to provide real investment in America's surface transportation system, and strengthen the network to ensure that truckers can operate efficiently and safely.

It is sad that our nation's highways and bridges are slowly deteriorating and the country's once state-of-the-art highway networks are becoming a thing of the past, solely because our funding has failed to keep up with capacity and growth. OOIDA supports your concept, and looks forward to working with you as Congress develops an infrastructure investment package. We applaud this step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

Todd Spencer
Executive Vice President
Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association