

U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

March 14, 2017

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

Dear Ranking Member DeFazio:

As Congress considers policy options for an infrastructure investment package, the U.S. Travel Association applauds you for introducing the “Investing in America: A Penny for Progress Act.”

The travel and tourism industry produces \$2.1 trillion in economic output and supports 15 million American jobs. This output is generated through the large-scale movement of business and leisure travelers, and is dependent on a well-functioning, modern 21st Century transportation network. Unfortunately, our industry is threatened by underinvestment in the nation’s surface transportation network.

A recent study found that within 10 years, major Interstate corridors will experience average daily congestion equal to Labor Day levels of traffic. According to a U.S. Travel survey, 38 percent of Americans would avoid between one-and-five trips per year if congestion continues to grow at its current pace, costing the U.S. economy \$23 billion and 208,000 American jobs.

The “Investing in America: A Penny for Progress Act” provides real, dedicated revenues to support investment in upgrading the surface transportation network. The \$500 million in additional infrastructure investment generated through your legislation will help ensure that the travel and tourism sectors remain globally competitive and continue to play a vital role in the U.S. economy.

Thank you for your leadership in identifying policy solutions that increase investment in the nation’s transportation infrastructure. We look forward to working with you to solve our infrastructure investment crisis and support American jobs in every corner of the country.

Sincerely,



Roger J. Dow
President and CEO
U.S. Travel Association