

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

February 26, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker and Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your cooperation in facilitating the House passage of the H.R. 2847, the "Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act", passed by the Senate on February 24, 2010. I appreciate your concern that the urgency of passage of the legislation did not allow time for a Conference Committee or other discussions to reconcile surface transportation extension act differences between the Senate-passed amendment (Title IV) and the House-passed bill, the "Jobs for Main Street Act" (Title II of H.R. 2847).

To accommodate House concerns with Title IV, the "Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2010", of the Senate-passed amendment, we have reached agreement on the following changes to H.R. 2847:

1. Distribute the Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS) and National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement (Corridor) program funding among all States based on each State's share of fiscal year 2009 highway apportioned funds rather than to only 29 States that had PNRS and Corridor projects under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).
2. Distribute "additional" highway formula funds (which the bill makes available in lieu of additional Congressionally-designated projects) among all of the highway formula programs rather than among just six formula programs.


I pledge to you that I will make every effort to include these provisions in the next Jobs bill passed by the Senate, which we hope to accomplish in the next few weeks. I have attached legislative language to accomplish these changes.

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I will also join you in requesting that the Federal Highway Administration not apportion the PNRS and Corridor funding to States until Congress has passed this corrective legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


HARRY REID
Majority Leader