

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2012

The Honorable John Mica
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

Dear Chairman Mica and Ranking Member Rahall:

As you work on a highway and transit reauthorization bill, we respectfully urge you to authorize the development of a national freight policy. In order to grow our economy, it is essential that we have a national plan on how to best move imports and exports throughout our country.

We are now living in a critical period for trade and infrastructure. As the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors has noted, by 2020 foreign trade is expected to increase by 187 percent, and containerized cargo will experience an explosive 350 percent increase. Whether Congress is ready or not, we will be forced to consider how to cope with this increase in trade and cargo.

Just this past week, the *New York Times* put the issue of freight policy up-front and center. According to the *Times*, it takes 48 hours to ship goods from Los Angeles to Chicago, but then it can take up to 30 hours just to transport them just across the City of Chicago. The article is a reminder of why it is so important to focus on goods movement. Our country and our economy are interconnected and when one part fails, we all pay the price.

Having spoken with industry leaders, labor leaders, and Members from both sides of the aisle, the one issue that we all agree on is the need for a national freight policy. Including such language in this vital piece of legislation would signal to all stakeholders that the House of Representatives is committed to making goods movement a priority. Doing so would give American businesses the certainty they need to invest in our economy by ensuring the strength of the supply chains they use to transport their products.

Sincerely,



Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen

Rep. Rick Larsen

Linda J. Sanchez

Rep. Linda Sanchez

Adam Smith

Rep. Adam Smith

Russ Carnahan

Rep. Russ Carnahan

Steve Chabot

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Adam Schiff

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