

US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2008

Dear Representative,

One year after the tragic collapse of the I-35 W Bridge in Minneapolis, our country's bridges remain in critical condition and in need of significant funding for maintenance and repair. **We strongly urge you to support H.R. 3999, The National Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act.**

The unmet needs of our nation's aging transportation infrastructure endanger the safety and security of American families. While billions in federal funds are spent annually on new highway projects and lane expansion, our existing assets have been left behind. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, approximately 74,000 bridges in this country are classified as structurally deficient.

H.R. 3999 is an important first step towards addressing this national problem. The legislation authorizes dedicated funding for bridge repairs throughout the country and provides minimum inspection standards.

The tragedy in Minnesota should serve as a wake-up call for this Congress, which must embrace an approach to highway spending that prioritizes maintenance and repair of our existing roadways over new capacity. Our country can no longer afford the cost of inaction as our bridges continue to age and deteriorate. **Please support H.R. 3999, The National Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act.**

Thank You,

John Krieger
Staff Attorney
US Public Interest Research Group
(202) 546-9707
JKrieger@pirg.org