

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 20, 2010

Congressman Oberstar  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar:

As Members from the state of Illinois, we respectfully request that you reconsider your decision to support the Surface Transportation Extension Modification Act of 2010. Illinois has an 11.7 percent unemployment rate, 2 percent above the nation's rate, and the passage of this act will have a further devastating impact on our state's economy.

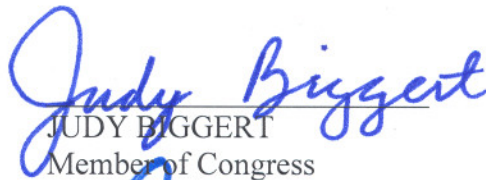
The current highway funding formula is designed to provide federal aid for high cost projects of national significance. Illinois has been recognized by the Department of Transportation as a state which should receive federal highway funding for both Projects of National Significance and National Corridor Programs. Our state fairly receives these monies because of the volume of surface transportation which passes through on a regular basis. As a donor state, Illinois is already putting more money in to the Federal Highway Trust Fund than we receive in return from the federal government. The enactment of this legislation will cost Illinois an additional \$118,940,724 and thousands of jobs, and will damage our ability to continue to be a central transportation hub for the entire country.

These same consequences which Illinois will feel should this act pass will also be felt by the rest of the states. Congress has recognized that transportation funding is a key to creating jobs in the United States and we cannot back legislation which does just the opposite at a time when Americans need jobs more than ever. We ask that you review the economic impact which this law will have not only on the state of Illinois but the country as a whole. The highway funding distribution for Projects of National Significance and National Corridor Programs needs to remain as is and we hope that you will work to ensure that this possible change to the formula does not occur.

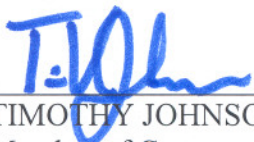
Sincerely,



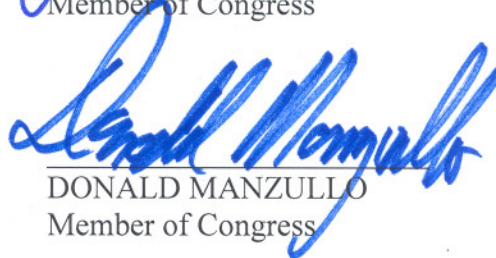
MARK KIRK  
Member of Congress



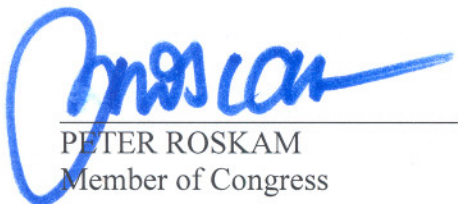
JUDY BIGGERT  
Member of Congress



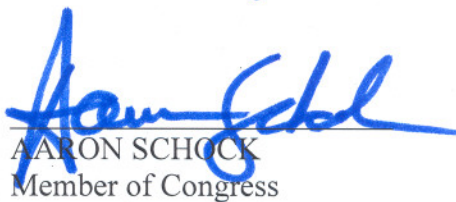
TIMOTHY JOHNSON  
Member of Congress



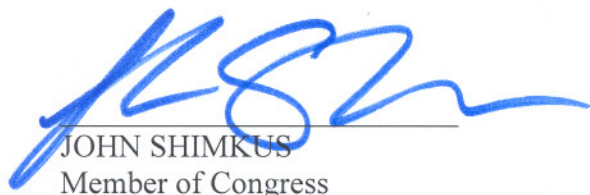
DONALD MANZULLO  
Member of Congress



PETER ROSKAM  
Member of Congress



AARON SCHOCK  
Member of Congress



JOHN SHIMKUS  
Member of Congress