



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

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Ranking Republican Member

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May 5, 2010

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

The Honorable Haley Barbour
P.O. Box 139
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Governor Barbour:

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure continues to perform vigorous oversight of the transportation and infrastructure provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5) (Recovery Act), to ensure that the funds provided are invested quickly, efficiently, and in harmony with the job-creating purposes of the Act. The critical information provided in your monthly reports has proved essential to the Committee's efforts to understand how States and their local partners have delivered transportation and infrastructure projects and created urgently needed employment in the tight timeframes set forth in the Act.¹

During the fourteen months following enactment of the Recovery Act, we have witnessed how the transportation and infrastructure investments of the Act have played a key role in putting Americans back to work. All States met the requirement that funds available under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program be under contract within one-year (February 17, 2010). Since then, many States have moved aggressively to begin construction of wastewater infrastructure projects.

Commendably, Mississippi is among those States. Along with 23 other States, Mississippi is leading other States in putting to work its wastewater infrastructure Recovery Act funds. Based on the State progress reports submitted to the Committee in April 2010, your State ranks first out of 51 States,² based on an analysis of the percentage of wastewater infrastructure Recovery Act funds put out to bid, under contract, and underway.³ As of March 31, Mississippi has put out to bid, signed contracts for, and begun construction of projects totaling 100 percent of the State's funding.

¹ See P.L. 111-5, § 1201. In addition to the statutory reporting requirements of the Recovery Act, the Committee has requested and received transparency and accountability information on implementation of the transportation and infrastructure provisions of the Recovery Act from Federal agencies, States, metropolitan planning organizations, and public transit agencies. The Committee has also held 18 oversight hearings on implementation of the Recovery Act.

² These rankings include the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The rankings do not include the Territories.

³ Nationally, 100 percent of Recovery Act funds for Clean Water SRF projects are out to bid, 100 percent of funds are under contract, and 93.4 percent of funds are underway, as of March 31, 2010.

The Honorable Haley Barbour

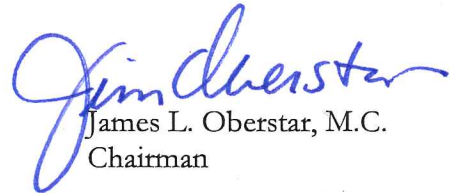
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I expect that your State will continue to successfully implement this program and serve as a model for other States around the nation. Together, we are creating and sustaining family-wage jobs, contributing to our nation's long-term economic growth, and helping the United States recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Oberstar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" being particularly prominent.

James L. Oberstar, M.C.
Chairman