



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

Washington, DC 20515

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

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Ranking Republican Member

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Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

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May 5, 2010

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Office of the Governor
Room 225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

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 one-year deadline (March 2, 2010) to obligate 100 percent of their Recovery Act highway funds. Many States have also moved aggressively to put out to bid, sign contracts for, and begin construction of Recovery Act highway projects.

Commendably, Pennsylvania has consistently led the nation in putting to work its Recovery Act highway funds. Based on the State progress reports submitted to the Committee in April 2010, your State ranks second out of 51 States,² based on an analysis of the percentage of Recovery Act highway funds put out to bid, under contract, and underway.³ As of March 31, Pennsylvania has begun construction of projects totaling 99.7 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 According to the State's submission, as of March 31, 2010, 99.7 percent of Pennsylvania's Recovery Act highway formula funds are out to bid, 99.7 percent of funds are under contract, and 99.7 percent of funds are underway.

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell

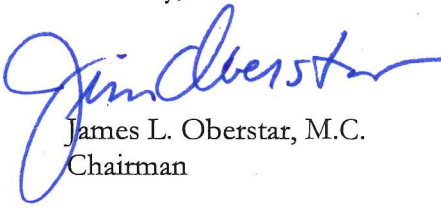
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I expect that your State will continue to successfully implement this program and serve as a model for other States around the nation. Together, we are creating and sustaining family-wage jobs, contributing to our nation's long-term economic growth, 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, appearing to read "Jim Oberstar".

James L. Oberstar, M.C.
Chairman

Nationally, 93.9 percent of Recovery Act highway formula funds are out to bid, 81.7 percent of funds are under contract, and 74.2 percent of funds are underway.