



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

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

October 1, 2009

David Heymsfeld, Chief of Staff
Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

The Honorable Adrian Fenty
Executive Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 316
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mayor Fenty:

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure continues to closely oversee the implementation of 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 Recovery Act. Throughout development of the Recovery Act, I emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability and ensured that the transportation and infrastructure provisions are subject to the most rigorous transparency and accountability requirements of the Act.¹

In August 2009, almost six months after enactment of the Recovery Act, I sent letters to the best and worst performers in putting to work Recovery Act highway funds. Since then, we have watched many States move aggressively to use these funds to create and sustain family-wage jobs, contribute to our nation's long-term economic growth, and help the United States recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Regrettably, the District of Columbia is not among these States. Based on the State progress reports submitted to the Committee in September 2009, the District of Columbia has fallen far behind other States in putting to work its Recovery Act highway formula funds. According to submissions received from all States and the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia ranks 48 out of 51,² based on an analysis of the percentage of Recovery Act highway formula funds put out to bid, under contract, and underway.³ As of August 31,

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. Those recipients have reported regularly to the Committee. The Committee has also held five 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 August 31, 2009, 81.8 percent of the District of Columbia's Recovery Act highway formula funds are out to bid, 14.7 percent of funds are under contract, and 8 percent of funds are underway.

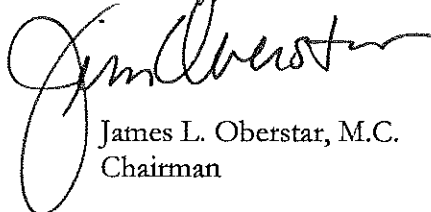
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District of Columbia had begun construction of projects totaling only 8 percent of the District's funding.

I strongly urge you to refocus your efforts to implement the Recovery Act and use the available funds to create and sustain family-wage jobs. These jobs are critical to the District of Columbia's and the nation's long-term economic growth.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Oberstar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "O".

James L. Oberstar, M.C.
Chairman

Nationally, 65.2 percent of Recovery Act highway formula funds are out to bid, 48.9 percent of funds are under contract, and 42.7 percent of funds are underway.