

THE
CENTURY COUNCIL
DISTILLERS FIGHTING DRUNK DRIVING & UNDERAGE DRINKING

April 9, 2010

The Honorable James Oberstar
Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Jon Mica
Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Jerry Costello
Chairman, Aviation Subcommittee

The Honorable Tom Petri
Ranking Member, Aviation Subcommittee

Dear Congressmen:

The Century Council was founded in 1991 and is an independent, national not-for-profit organization headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. Funded by America's leading distillers (Bacardi, U.S.A.; Beam Global Spirits and Wine, Inc.; Brown-Forman; Constellation Brands, Inc.; DIAGEO; Hood River Distillers, Inc.; Pernod Ricard USA; and Sidney Frank Importing Co. Inc.), the Council is dedicated to developing and implementing programs that fight drunk driving and underage drinking. To date, we have hosted more than 2,200 events with over 150 Members of Congress to launch our programs in communities across the nation – bringing them to millions of parents, youth, educators, law enforcement officials and traffic safety professionals

On behalf of The Century Council, I want to commend you for your leadership on H.R. 4714, The National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2010, which will provide increased funding and authority to the agency to conduct investigations and issue recommendations. This funding is critical to improving transportation safety and continuing the agency's stellar reputation for ensuring safety in all modes of transportation.

We have heard troubling reports regarding plans to amend H.R. 4714 in a way that severely cuts NTSB funding levels, even as much as to the President's Budget request for FY 2011, which would cause NTSB to lose staff. We recognize the budget challenges facing the nation and appreciate the tough choices that must be made. However, it is critically important that the NTSB be fully funded to allow it to achieve its staffing goal of 477 FTEs.

THE HONORABLE
SUSAN MOLINARI
Chairman

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WASHINGTONIAN
GREAT PLACES TO WORK

Over the years, the NTSB has become one of the world's premier accident investigation agencies. The NTSB has had a central role in shaping transportation safety improvements and has issued more than 12,000 recommendations in all transportation modes to more than 2,200 recipients. Without full funding, the quality of the NTSB operation will be at risk.

The Century Council has worked on the issue of drunk driving and underage drinking prevention since 1991 and we have relied upon the expertise and the recommendations of the NTSB to make progress in reducing drunk driving deaths and injuries. We applaud the agency's leadership on transportation safety and we urge increased funding for the NTSB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Molinari".

Susan Molinari
Chairman