

DENNIS J. KUCINICH
10TH DISTRICT, OHIO

2445 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5871

14400 DETROIT AVENUE
LAKWOOD, OHIO 44107
(216) 228-8850

PARMATOWN MALL
7904 DAY DRIVE
PARMA, OH 44129
(440) 845-2707



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

www.kucinich.house.gov

CHAIRMAN,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC POLICY
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

March 5, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Calabrese
General Manager
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
1240 West 6th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1331

Dear Mr. Calabrese:

Today I was notified by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) of 3 grant awards to the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) totaling more than \$12.5 million. I am pleased to report that more than \$3.2 million of that amount is designated for "Operating Assistance." This is possible because of language in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) that allows recipients of FTA grants to use up to 10% for operations as opposed to capital expenditures, which is the usual use of federal transit dollars.

I strongly supported the ARRA, also known as the "stimulus," to ensure that jobs are retained during the deep recession we are now experiencing. Because so many jobs are at stake among RTA's employees, and among RTA's riders whose bus routes are on the chopping block, I ask that any federal money RTA receives for operating assistance be used to restore jobs and bus routes slated for elimination next month.

I also ask that you restore the Lakewood Circulator. This was a popular route that enabled seniors as well as persons with disabilities and those of modest income to easily get around Lakewood. It was also cut due to lack of funds for operations. Given the short time frame, I ask that you take action to review your budget so that these jobs and bus lines are immediately restored.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

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