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July 22, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer Chairman Senate Environment and Public Works Committee 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer:

We commend your leadership in pushing an amendment to H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act, to ensure that Congress passes a fully-funded, long-term transportation bill before the end of the year.

It is critical for Congress to develop a long-term funding solution for the Highway Trust Fund before the end of the year and pass the first long-term reauthorization of the transportation program in over five years. Your amendment recognizes that developing a stable funding solution is critical to advancing transportation solutions in communities across the county.

Just as the private sector cannot plan with uncertainty, communities cannot plan their transportation investments when it is not clear if they will have a federal partner. Currently, states and metropolitan regions have bold plans to take on the transportation challenges their communities are facing. However, without developing a long-term funding solution these communities are not be able to invest in these solutions, let alone undertake the much-needed repair of their existing infrastructure.

Our coalition of local elected officials and local business representatives recognize the economic benefit that a sustainable source of funding for transportation can provide. As the Senate continues to consider legislation to shore up the Highway Trust Fund in the short term, we look forward to working with you to build support for your amendment and ensure that Congress has a responsible conversation about addressing the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund and bring the certainty to the funding conversation that local elected officials and the local business community know is critical.

Sincerely,

James Corless Director

**Transportation for America (T4America)** is an alliance of elected, business and civic leaders from communities across the country, united to ensure that states and the federal government step up to invest in smart, homegrown, locally-driven transportation solutions – because these are the investments that hold the key to our future economic prosperity.