



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

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

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

January 26, 2009

Chairman James L. Oberstar
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar:

Our Committee hearing last week revealed the unfortunate action by the Appropriations Committee and others involved in the creation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which significantly reduces infrastructure investment and job creation from the original Transportation and Infrastructure Committee proposal. Our Committee's plan showed ready projects that have the potential of producing 2.7 million jobs, but the legislation reported out by the Appropriations Committee reduces that amount to \$63 billion and less than 8 percent of an \$825 billion package.

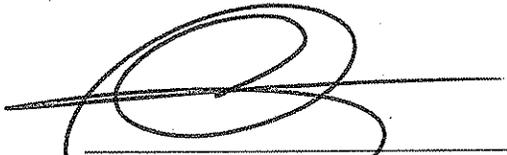
As Members learn about the reduced amount of real infrastructure investment and subsequent job creation relative to the remainder of this massive spending package, it appears that this proposal may become embroiled in controversy.

As this situation unfolds, we wanted to express our support as fellow Transportation and Infrastructure Committee leaders for the original plan and we are prepared to request from you a separation of the Transportation and Infrastructure spending as an independent package, in order to avoid a delay or diversion of taxpayer resources as we meet our obligation to deal with the pending economic and employment downturn. This action will ensure that the important legislation components of this legislation are not further delayed.

Chairman James L. Oberstar
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With an unemployment number of 3.4 million Americans and rising, we applaud your efforts to invest responsibly in our nation's infrastructure and will join you in our commitment to move Americans back to productive employment.

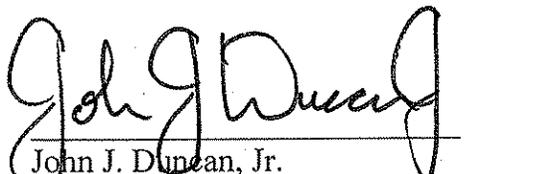
Sincerely,



John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure



Thomas E. Petri
Ranking Republican Member
Subcommittee on Aviation



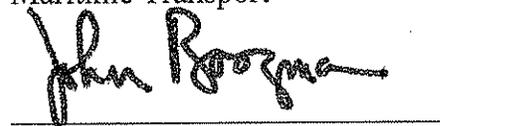
John J. Duncan, Jr.
Ranking Republican Member
Subcommittee on Highways & Transit



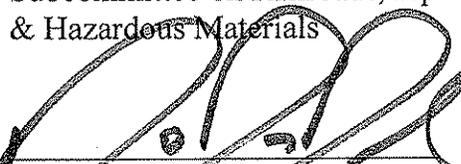
Frank A. LoBiondo
Ranking Republican Member
Subcommittee on Coast Guard &
Maritime Transport



Bill Shuster
Ranking Republican Member
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines
& Hazardous Materials



John Boozman
Ranking Republican Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources &
Environment



Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Republican Member
Subcommittee on Economic
Development, Public Buildings &
Emergency Management