

The United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20150

February 3, 2009

Dear Senator,

The undersigned organizations and public officials write to urge the Senate to invest further in our nation's public transportation network by supporting a proposed amendment sponsored by Senator Charles Schumer to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill. The Schumer amendment will add capital grants for new "shovel-ready" projects and additional funding for modernization of existing systems. In addition to the benefits of the current Senate transit allocation, this \$6.5 billion investment will create or preserve an additional 178,000 jobs and reduce our nation's oil consumption by more than 2 million barrels per year.

The Schumer amendment includes \$2.5 billion in Capital Investment Grants for new light rail and rapid transit systems that will accelerate projects already in construction and increase public access to transit service. The current Senate legislation does not include funding for the construction of new systems and expanded lines, of which there is a vast and immediate need. An analysis by Transportation for America found over \$5 billion in new transit construction projects that could be ready to go in 120 days. The Schumer amendment would also increase funding for existing transportation networks in communities small and large through urban and non-urban formula allocations, which will provide immediate employment opportunities in the construction, manufacturing, and technology sectors.

The transportation sector is responsible for a third of the nation's global warming pollution, and two-thirds of domestic oil consumption. Public transportation saves more than 4 billion gallons of fuel each year according to the American Public Transportation Association, and produces less than a third of the pollution of comparable passenger car travel. Transit service is critical for the millions of people who depend on it to reach jobs and provides a low-cost transportation option for households at all income levels, seniors and workers with limited mobility. Finally, in a national poll released earlier this month by the National Association of Realtors and Transportation For America, 80% of respondents said stimulus funds should not only create jobs, but also reduce oil dependence, increase transportation options and improve the environment.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue and urge your support for this important investment that will help build a cleaner, safer, healthier and stronger America.

Signed,

1,000 Friends of Oregon	Ecology Center of Michigan
1Sky	Environment America
2020 Vision	Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Alaska Clean Air Coalition	Environmental Defense Fund
Alliance to Save Energy	Environmental Law and Policy Center
Amalgamated Transit Union	Environmental Working Group
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy	Friends Committee on National Legislation
American Planning Association	Friends of the Earth
American Public Health Association	Futurewise (Washington)
American Public Transportation Association	Greenpeace
Anchorage Citizens Coalition	Growth and Justice (Minnesota)
Apollo Alliance	Housing Preservation Project
Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)	Houston Tomorrow
Building America's Future	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Center for Neighborhood Technology	ISAIAH: Building Just Communities (Minnesota)
CEOs for Cities	League of Conservation Voters
Clean Water Action	Livable Communities Coalition
Climate Solutions	Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Community Streetcar Coalition	LOCUS (Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors)
Congress of New Urbanism - DC Chapter	Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers
Conservation Law Foundation	Michigan Environmental Council
Earthjustice	National Association of City Transportation Officials

National Association of Railroad Passengers

National League of Cities

National Wildlife Federation

Natural Resources Defense Council

New Starts Working Group

PolicyLink

Prevention Institute

Public Advocates

Reconnecting America

Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Sierra Club

Smart Growth America

Southern Environmental Law Center

Transit Coalition

Transit for Livable Communities

Transit Workers for Anchorage

Transportation Choices Coalition (Washington)

Transportation Equity Network

Transportation For America

Tri-State Transportation Campaign (NY-NJ-CT)

U.S. Climate Action Network

U.S. Conference of Mayors

U.S. Public Interest Research Group

Union of Concerned Scientists

Urban Habitat

USAction