United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 13, 2012

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

As Chairmen of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, we are writing to express our concern and disappointment that the continuing resolution, H.J. Res. 117, fails to protect the funding levels that were negotiated in the recently-passed surface transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). The House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on the six-month stopgap measure this week.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, every $1 billion in Federal highway funding that is matched by State and local investments creates or sustains over 34,000 jobs through all sectors of the economy and every $1 billion in Federal public transportation funding that is similarly matched supports 37,500 jobs. Failure to honor the bipartisan, bicameral agreement in MAP-21 means an unacceptable funding cut to highway, highway safety, and transit programs of over $620 million and the loss of almost 22,000 jobs over the year.

These are jobs that could have been filled by unemployed construction workers, who have been hard hit by the recession, to repair our roads and bridges and improve public transportation facilities and infrastructure. The funds could have also been used to enhance and enforce vital safety requirements for cars, trucks, and buses.

The funding levels in MAP-21 were fully paid for with offsets included in the bill, and therefore honoring the bipartisan and bicameral agreement in MAP-21 will not increase the federal deficit.

In addition to our concerns with the funding levels, the continuing resolution does not allow the federal government to spend more than $200 million that MAP-21 allocated to prevent drunk driving, reduce distracted driving, promote teen safety, and develop new driver safety programs.

MAP-21 passed with overwhelmingly bipartisan support, with a vote of 373 to 52 in the House of Representatives and a vote of 74 to 19 in the Senate, and the commitments made in

that bill must be honored. For the businesses and the working people of this country, for the drivers of cars and trucks, for the users of public transportation, for the safety of our families in this country, and for this economy, these funding cuts must be restored for fiscal year 2013.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works

Tim Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

John D. Rockefeller IV
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation