



Smart Growth America - Reconnecting America - Surface Transportation Policy Project - PolicyLink
National Housing Conference - US Public Interest Research Group - National Resources Defense Council
National Association of City Transportation Officials - America Bikes - National Association of Realtors
Apollo Alliance - LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors - Action! For Regional Equity

Transit for Livable Communities – American Public Health Association

United States Senate September 29, 2008 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

The US Public Interest Research Group and The Transportation for America campaign, which represents a broad coalition of housing, equity, public health, municipal officials, environmental, real estate, and transportation organizations are writing to express our strong support for Senate consideration of the economic stimulus package as passed by a wide bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives on September 26.

Our country faces vast funding gaps in the transportation sector at a time when demand for public transportation is booming. This legislation, H.R. 7110, will create thousands of much-needed jobs for American workers through robust investment in public transportation. Transit provisions within this bill - including \$3.6 billion to purchase new vehicles and equipment, \$1 billion to meet growing demand for service despite rapidly increasing costs, and \$500 million for improvements to our nation's rail system - will put people to work right away and produce long-term reductions in fuel consumption, carbon emissions and congestion.

Record high gas prices and limited alternatives to driving have put America in a crisis. Transportation costs are now the second highest household expense for the average family, higher than food, clothing, and healthcare. Americans already tightening their household budgets in the face of a weakened economy need sustainable alternatives to driving that will not break the bank.

Emergency economic stimulus funding should provide immediate relief for struggling families and unemployed workers and address long-term challenges, such as breaking our addiction to foreign oil, enhancing the vitality of our metro areas, and reducing our carbon emissions. This legislation, through robust investment in public transportation, represents an important first step towards meeting these challenges and turning our economy and our transportation system in a new, better direction.

Thank you for your leadership,

John Krieger, Staff Attorney
US Public Interest Research Group

Mariia Zimmerman, Policy Director
Transportation for America

