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Asphalt Emulsion Manufacturers Association ■
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International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers ■
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Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust ■
Laborers' International Union of North America ■
National Asphalt Pavement Association ■
National Association of Surety Bond Producers ■
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association ■
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association ■
National Utility Contractors Association ■
Portland Cement Association ■
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute ■
The Road Information Program ■
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

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November 8, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Environment and
Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Republican
Committee on Environment and
Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer and Senator Inhofe

The twenty nine national associations and construction trade unions that comprise the Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC) strongly urge all members of the Environment and Public Works Committee to vote for the "MAP-21" surface transportation reauthorization proposal, which would provide critical investments and policy reforms needed to improve the nation's highway and bridge network.

The federal highway and public transportation programs have been operating under a series of temporary extensions for more than two years. MAP-21 would end that dysfunctional cycle and restore stability to the federal surface transportation programs. In a very challenging budgetary environment, the legislation would authorize current (inflation-adjusted) levels of highway, bridge, and highway safety investment. We fully recognize these investment levels require action to supplement existing Highway Trust Fund revenues and are urging all Senate Finance Committee members to make such legislation a priority. Failure to generate these resources could threaten hundreds of thousands of jobs in the construction industry, which continues to suffer unemployment levels well in excess of the national average.

The TCC has long supported reforming the federal highway program to focus on national goals and deliver transportation benefits faster and at lower cost. Specifically, we support steps to accelerate the transportation project environmental review and approval process through the use of deadlines, flexibility for state departments of transportation, expedited reviews for projects with no significant impact, and greater authority for the U.S. Department of Transportation with other federal agencies. The TCC also supports efforts to increase the involvement of the private sector resources to help meet the nation's transportation challenges.

We commend you and Senators Baucus and Vitter for developing a comprehensive, bipartisan reauthorization proposal that would continue the strong tradition of federal leadership in the area of transportation policy. We urge all members of the Environment and Public Works Committee to vote to move the surface transportation reauthorization process forward by supporting MAP-21.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Construction Coalition