

Metropolitan Planning Council

February 28, 2012

Congresswoman Judy Biggert
2113 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Biggert,

We applaud your leadership in taking a stand to guarantee dedicated funding for transit in the Chicago region as part of H.R. 7, the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012. This commitment to mass transit is crucial for the long-term sustainability of our region. Thank you!

MPC research as documented that the Chicago region loses at least \$7.3 billion each year in wasted time, fuel, and environmental damages as a result of congestion. Eliminating dedicated funding for transit will only exacerbate these costs and prevent economic growth and progress.

Transit is a critical component to the Chicago region's economic livelihood. Our transit system eliminates almost two million drivers a day from already grid locked roads. The more people on buses and trains, the fewer in their cars – freeing up road capacity for freight, reducing traffic congestion, and doing less damage to the air we breathe.

If the House bill becomes law, the Chicago region would lose \$1.2 billion over the next five years, including major cuts to Metra, Pace, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), and the Illinois Dept. of Transportation. Additionally, the bill would require the CTA to separate rail and bus operations or lose eligibility for grants that, over the past two years, have generated \$80 million for purchasing new busses and rehabbing bus garages.

As a long-time champion of transit, bicycling and walking, the Metropolitan Planning Council opposes H.R. 7. MPC supports a comprehensive transportation bill that prioritizes fixing our current infrastructure, sets up clear parameters for measuring success, instills accountability to spending for every federal dollar, and ensures that any new construction increases options for all Americans, regardless of transportation mode. By investing precious tax dollars rather than spending them, by getting more from dollars already spent, and by reducing the demand for costly new investments, we can improve quality of life, clean the air, and generate much-needed economic development.

We urge your continued leadership in support of comprehensive legislation which guarantees a dedicated funding source for transit.

Sincerely,



MarySue Barrett
President

140 South Dearborn
Suite 1400
Chicago, Illinois 60603

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F 312 922 5619
metroplanning.org

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Congressman Dan Lipinski
1717 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lipinski,

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MPC research as documented that the Chicago region loses at least \$7.3 billion each year in wasted time, fuel, and environmental damages as a result of congestion. Eliminating dedicated funding for transit will only exacerbate these costs and prevent economic growth and progress.

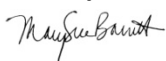
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Congressman Bob Dold
212 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dold,

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