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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4326

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The Honorable Mary Peters  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Peters:

As you know, our nation's highways and infrastructure are reaching a crisis point. Since our states cannot always rely on a fair and equitable division of federal funds, states are forced to be innovative. Due to this very reason, the federal government must give the states flexibility to meet the needs of their people.

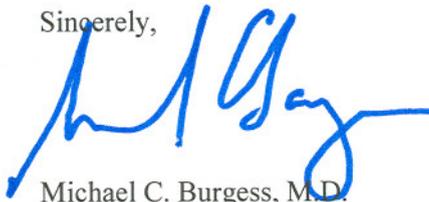
Out of necessity, the State of Texas has recently awarded a Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA) for SH 121 Toll Project. The Texas Department of Transportation charted a new course with this project, and it has the potential to bring billions of dollars in transportation funds to North Texas. This area is one of the most congested regions in the nation, and the problem, including the air quality, will only worsen if Texas does not find additional dollars for her roads.

Though the road to award to the CDA may have been a little bumpy at times, I applaud the transportation leaders in this area for seeking a new way to solve an old problem. That is, they were able to find a way to bring in much needed funds to our roads, without being a burden on our taxpayers. This was a noble goal, and they can accomplish it, if given the chance to implement their plan.

As the leader of the Nation's transportation system, I respectfully request that you and your staff give the highest level of discretion possible when further reviewing this project. Please do not tie up the process with bureaucratic red tape; instead, view the project for what it is--an innovative solution to an aging problem. I do realize the legalities associated with the toll project, but I also realize that your department may take action that you deem appropriate. In this case, I hope that you will find it appropriate to give the State of Texas the flexibility needed to implement this imperative project.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this issue. As always, if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress

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