

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 7, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

As the newly confirmed Secretary of Transportation, we wish to congratulate you on your recent appointment and express our interest in working with you to improve our nation's transportation system.

As you begin your new role, we would like to call to your attention recent activity from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) concerning the reestablishment of the Motorcyclist Advisory Council. We have serious concerns that the agency's current vision for the Council will produce insufficient representation of the motorcycle community and ignore the intent of Congress. As such, we urge you to postpone its implementation until a balanced structure can be reached that is in line with the authorizing statute.

As you may know, Section 1426 of the FAST Act reestablished a Motorcyclist Advisory Council to coordinate with and counsel the Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation on infrastructure issues that could affect motorcyclists. A similar Council was authorized in the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The composition of the previous Council included ten members from various backgrounds and educational areas, including highway infrastructure, traffic safety systems and engineers. In addition, four members of the Council were to be recommended by various national and state motorcycle riders associations to ensure that motorcyclists were represented on the Council to provide the experience, perspective and feedback to ensure the Council's success.

In a Federal Register notice dated January 9, 2017, the FHWA announced the reestablishment of the Motorcyclist Advisory Council and requested nominations for members to serve on the Council. Unfortunately, the notice allocated a singular membership category for a representative from a national motorcyclist association. With only one member of the motorcycling community on the Council, we are concerned the diverse perspectives of motorcycling community will be severely underrepresented.

It is critical to allow motorcyclists to have a strong voice on this Council. These are the individuals who have experience and can provide a motorcyclist's insights on the challenges and benefits of our roadways. Depending on where they live, riders have unique experiences and are differently impacted by roadway and barrier design, and construction, among others.

Last year, these concerns were raised with FHWA in a June 15, 2016, letter signed by a number of our colleagues. While we communicated to FHWA that participants in the newly established Motorcyclist Advisory Council should be balanced and include similar language as SAFETEA-LU, it appears our concerns were not addressed.

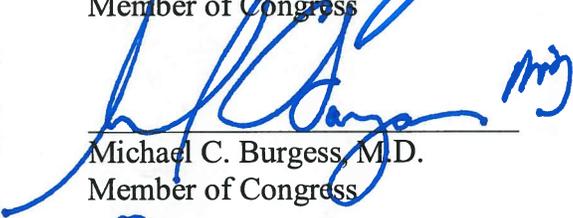
In order to make the Council an effective entity, the FHWA should revise the call for nominations and instead use the language from the 2005 highway bill regarding the participants eligible to serve.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. We look forward to your response and the opportunity to work with you to achieve success for the Motorcyclist Advisory Council and ensure it serves its designated purpose with appropriate participation.

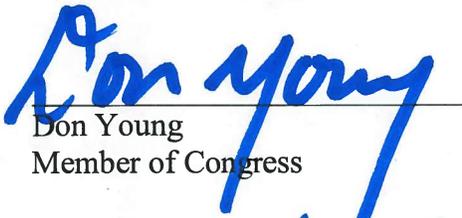
Sincerely,



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



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



Don Young
Member of Congress



Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



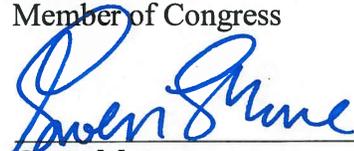
Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



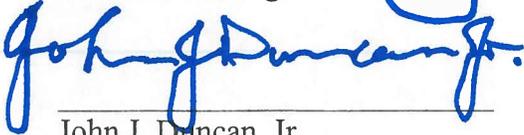
Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



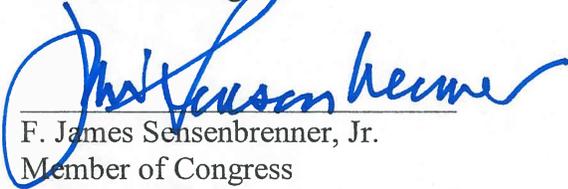
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress



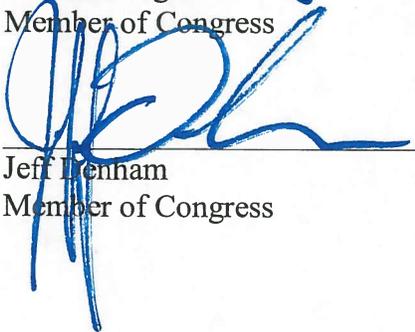
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Jeff Tennam
Member of Congress



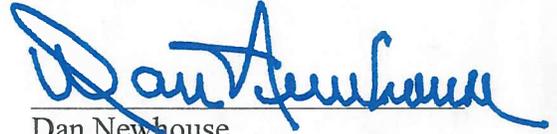
Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



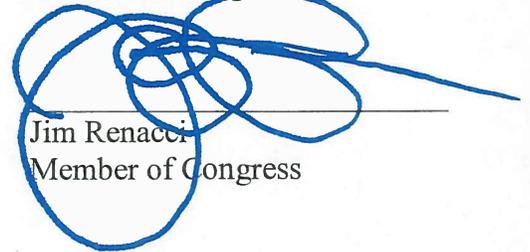
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci
Member of Congress