

National Association of Counties
National League of Cities
U.S. Conference of Mayors
American Public Works Association
Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
National Association of County Engineers
National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of Regional Councils

February 27, 2002

Dear Representative Young:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing a coalition of local elected and appointed officials, we are writing to you in support of the Highway Funding Restoration Act, H.R. 3694, which would restore a portion of the transportation funding cut proposed in the President's 2003 budget request.

As you are aware, the President's budget includes a proposed cut of nearly \$9 billion, or 28 percent, to the highway program in 2003. The impact of such a cut will be devastating to state and local transportation programs and to the economy. It is estimated that every \$1 billion invested in the federal highway program supports 42,000 jobs. A cut of this magnitude, therefore, would result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs at a time when the economy is in recession.

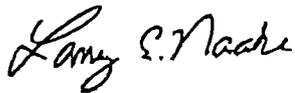
In addition, states and localities develop long-range transportation plans while counting on a dedicated revenue stream that cannot be disrupted. The financial health of transportation programs across the nation will be in jeopardy as credit and bond financing may be at risk.

The Highway Funding Restoration Act would increase funding for roads bridges and safety programs by \$4.5 billion to \$27.7 billion in 2003--the level authorized by TEA-21. Since the enactment of TEA-21, the nation's transportation infrastructure has benefited immensely. To halt this progress by cutting funding 28 percent would be devastating to states and localities, to local economies, and to the men and women whose livelihood depends on transportation-related projects

Many state and local transportation projects critical to the continued improvement of this nation's transportation infrastructure are in jeopardy. Our citizens' safety, economic security, and quality of life depend on the funding provided by TEA-21 programs.

Again, if you have not already done so, we urge you to cosponsor H.R. 3694. We stand ready to work with you to restore the critical funding for our nation's surface transportation program, and continuing our long standing partnership with you throughout the reauthorization of TEA-21.

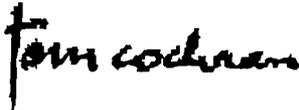
Sincerely,



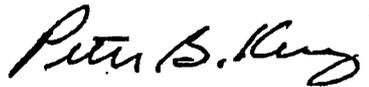
Larry Naake, Executive Director
National Association of Counties



Donald J. Borut, Executive Director
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