

**NATIONAL
GOVERNORS
ASSOCIATION**

John Engler
Governor of Michigan
Chairman

Paul E. Patton
Governor of Kentucky
Vice Chairman

Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director

February 25, 2002

The Honorable Thomas A. Daschle
Majority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, Room S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Trent Lott
Minority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, Room S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, Room H-228
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard A. Gephardt
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, Room H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

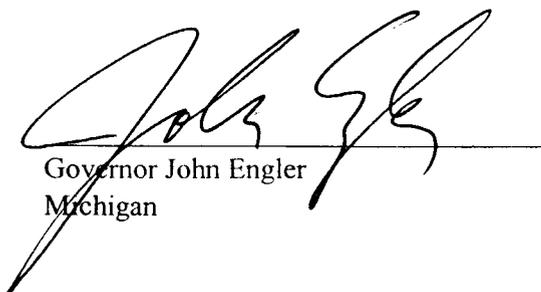
Dear Senator Daschle, Senator Lott, Speaker Hastert, and Representative Gephardt:

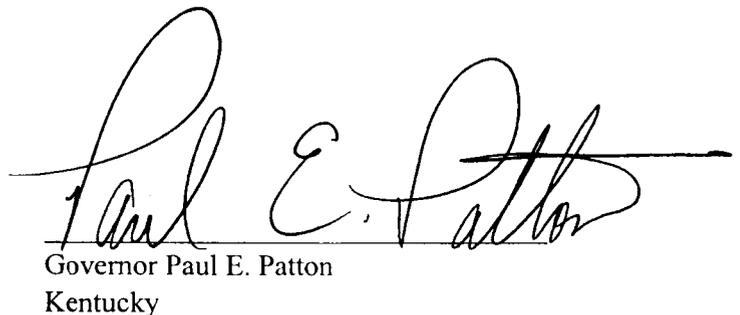
The nation's Governors support a fiscal year 2003 budget authority level for the federal aid highway program equal to current year. Given the weak economy, this is not the time for a major reduction in highway funding. Governors believe the bipartisan, bicameral legislation (H.R. 3694 and S. 1917) to partially restore this funding is an important first step. It is critical that Congress resolve this issue prior to the normal budget cycle to prevent significant disruption or delay of ongoing transportation projects, prevent programmatic funding inefficiencies, and minimize job losses.

We call on Congress and the Administration to maintain the current funding level as a key to economic security and to prevent any job losses, which would further hinder economic recovery.

We need Congress to act now.

Sincerely,


Governor John Engler
Michigan

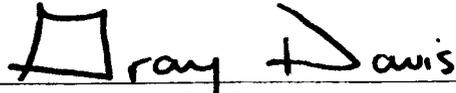

Governor Paul E. Patton
Kentucky



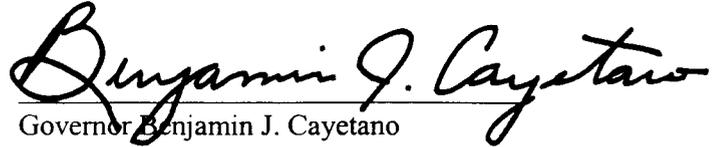
Governor Jane Dee Hull
Arizona



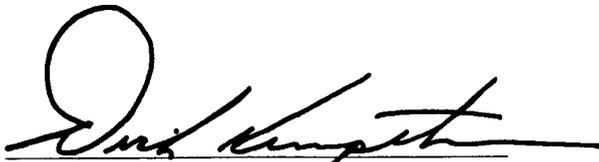
Governor Mike Huckabee
Arkansas



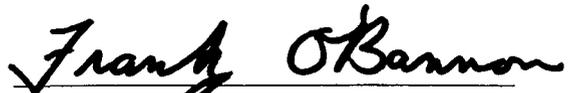
Governor Gray Davis
California



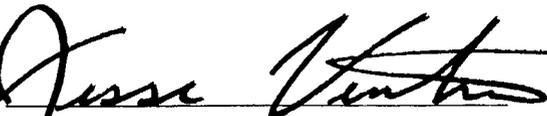
Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano
Hawaii



Governor Dirk Kempthorne
Idaho



Governor Frank O'Bannon
Indiana



Governor Jesse Ventura
Minnesota



Governor Ronnie Musgrove
Mississippi



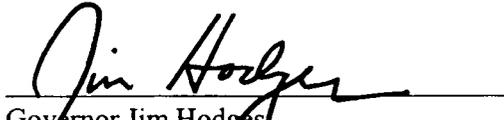
Governor Kenny Guinn
Nevada



Governor Judy Martz
Montana

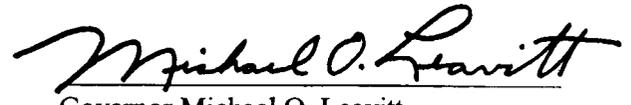

Governor Jeanne Shaheen
New Hampshire

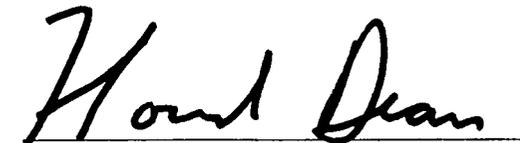

Governor Mark S. Schweiker
Pennsylvania


Governor Jim Hodges
South Carolina

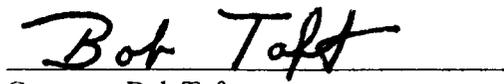

Governor Don Sundquist
Tennessee


Governor Rick Perry
Texas


Governor Michael O. Leavitt
Utah


Governor Howard Dean, M.D.
Vermont


Governor John Kitzhaber, M.D.
Oregon


Governor Bob Taft
Ohio

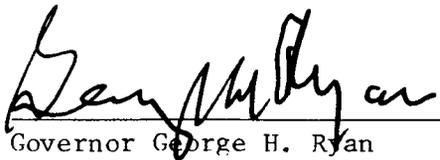

Governor Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware


Governor M. J. "Mike" Foster Jr.
Louisiana


Governor Bob Wise
West Virginia


Governor Mark R. Warner
Virginia


Governor Don Siegelman
Alabama



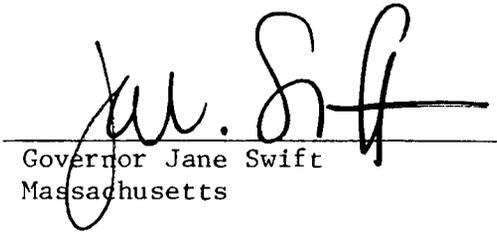
Governor George H. Ryan
Illinois



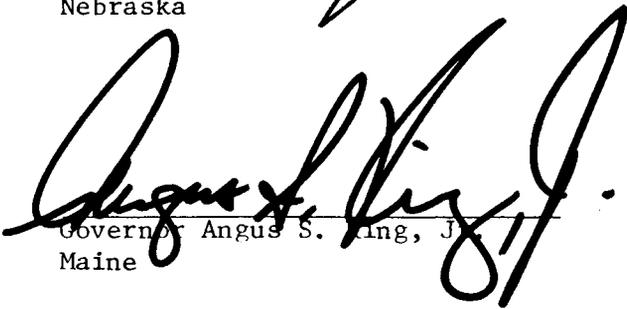
Governor Parris N. Glendening
Maryland



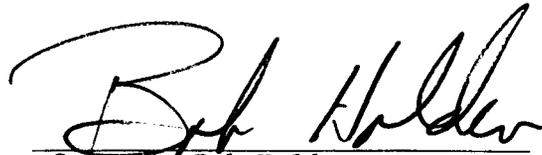
Governor Mike Johanns
Nebraska



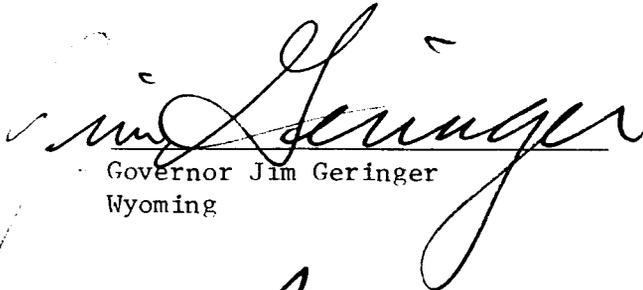
Governor Jane Swift
Massachusetts



Governor Angus S. King, Jr.
Maine



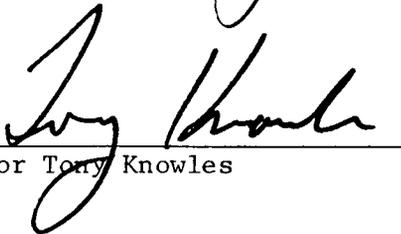
Governor Bob Holden
Missouri



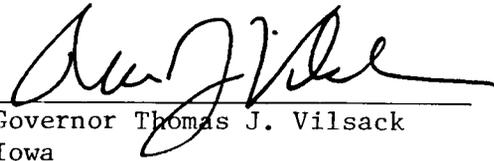
Governor Jim Geringer
Wyoming



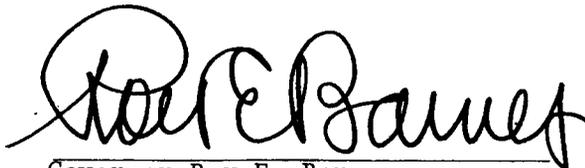
Governor Gary Locke
Washington



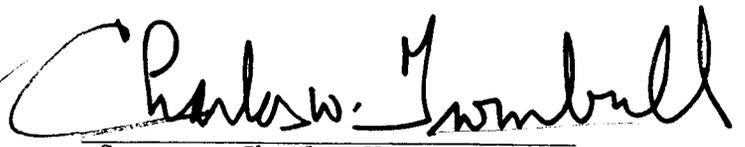
Governor Tony Knowles
Alaska



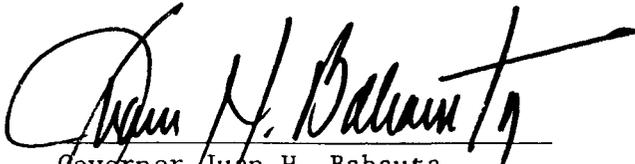
Governor Thomas J. Vilsack
Iowa

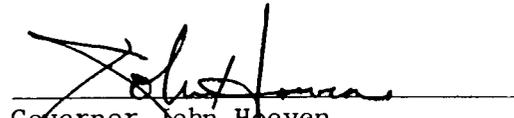


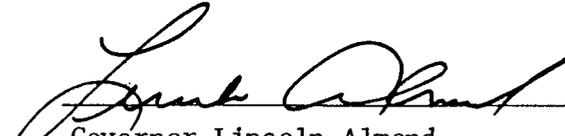
Governor Roy E. Barnes
Georgia

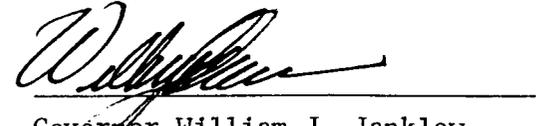


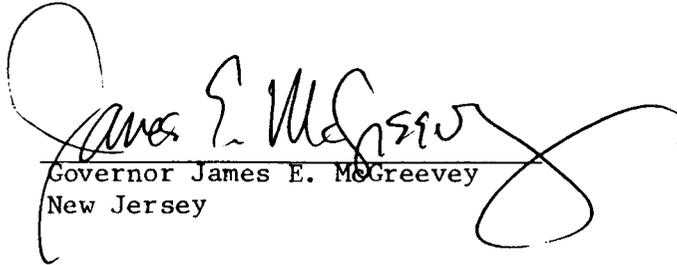
Governor Charles W. Turnbull
Virgin Islands

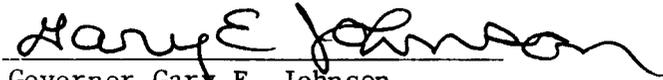

Governor Juan H. Babauta
Northern Mariana Islands


Governor John Hoeven
North Dakota

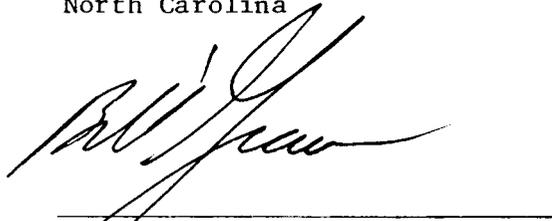

Governor Lincoln Almond
Rhode Island


Governor William J. Janklow
South Dakota


Governor James E. McGreevey
New Jersey


Governor Gary E. Johnson
New Mexico


Governor Michael F. Easley
North Carolina


Governor Bill Graves
Kansas