

Date

Honorable  
Address

Dear elected official:

I/we are writing you to request your continued support for public transportation initiatives in (area). As proven by our investment in the community utilizing funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, public transportation is an economic development tool that provides a maximum return on a minimal investment. An example of ARRA projects in our area include: (list ARRA projects). These projects created or saved (list number from 1201c report) jobs for (area) residents in the fields of (construction, engineering, consulting, etc..., if applicable). ARRA has allowed us to meet the transportation challenges of those affected by the economic downturn and serve as a link to places of employment, employment assistance agencies, and educational facilities, especially in our area because residents often have to travel (xxx) miles to access these vital services. We have also implemented or increased the investment in sustainable new innovations like hybrid buses to meet the new administration's goal of protecting our precious natural resources and reducing our dependence on non-renewable energy (if applicable).

The investment in public transportation is also vital to economic development because it is helping to maintain diverse communities. Although we are currently experiencing respite from the stifling fuel prices over the summer of 2008, many economists are forecasting a return to \$4.00 gasoline as the global economy rebounds. Without a viable public transportation network, the challenges of staffing low and moderate income jobs is nearly impossible because of the cost of fuel and the residual cost of goods and services resulting from high fuel costs. This is compounded in (area) because of the lack of local jobs. Most jobs are located in (community) which is (xxx) miles away. Commutes are not only time consuming but expensive and access to public transportation is key to the community. Currently we coordinate public transportation services with (list agency). This regional approach not only eases the commute for our citizens, but increases the value of all public transportation agencies involved.

Rural communities like (community) face a much different challenge than our urban neighbors. Often we are forced to provide service to very sparsely populated areas and commutes to urban hubs that provide employment, medical centers and educational services are often long and costly. This does not make these trips any less necessary, especially medical trips which provide a lifeline for residents, many of whom are veterans, to dialysis and other vital medical services. Continued investment in public transportation initiatives will allow communities like (list community) to provide this important service and maintain an acceptable quality of life environment for our citizens. We must begin now to implement transportation initiatives that allow for continued growth and prosperity. We must also look for solutions to the environmental impacts of our transportation choices and devise a sound policy that offers safe, reliable and convenient transportation alternatives. Public

transportation is not the ultimate solution to the transportation problems plaguing our communities, but with careful planning, an increased investment in our transit network can make a difference.

We appreciate your continued support of public transportation initiatives and will maintain our message to the community that public transportation is a transportation initiative not a social program. Our services are open and available to everyone and the services we provide are in our opinion worth the investment of public resources. If you or your staff would like to discuss our service offerings in detail, please feel free to contact (contact). Thank you again for your support in the past and in the future as we seek innovative new approaches to transportation initiatives in our community and throughout the nation.

Regards,

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