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COALITION**

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July 23, 2007

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative _____:

As the House prepares to consider the FY 2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill, H.R. 3074, the 28 national associations and construction trade unions of the Transportation Construction Coalition strongly urge you to support the measure's highway and transit investment levels.

Less than two years ago, Congress and the Bush Administration enacted the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) that made specific commitments to provide needed surface transportation improvement funds to the states. These investment levels directly coincide with user fee revenues credited to the Highway Trust Fund over SAFETEA-LU's life and do not impact the federal budget deficit. H.R. 3074 continues Congress' tradition of adhering to the SAFETEA-LU highway and transit investment commitments.

The Bush Administration and some members of Congress, however, now claim SAFETEA-LU's funding guarantees should be scaled back. This break with past commitments could take the form of either a floor amendment to H.R. 3074 or a presidential veto.

Over 400 members of the House of Representatives voted for SAFETEA-LU and the SAFETEA-LU conference report. In signing SAFETEA-LU into law, President Bush proclaimed, "This law makes our highways and mass transit systems safer and better, and it will help more people find work. And it accomplishes goals in a fiscally responsible way."

Now is not the time to back away from the nation's transportation infrastructure needs. The U.S. continues to under invest in critical infrastructure upgrades, while our global competitors are enhancing their transportation networks to help achieve their economic goals. Furthermore, providing resources for surface transportation improvements is not fiscally irresponsible, but critical investments that will pay dividends for decades to come.

We urge you to support SAFETEA-LU's highway and public transportation investment guarantees during consideration of H.R. 3074 and as the FY 2008 appropriations process moves forward.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Construction Coalition