

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 4, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
1106 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Levin:

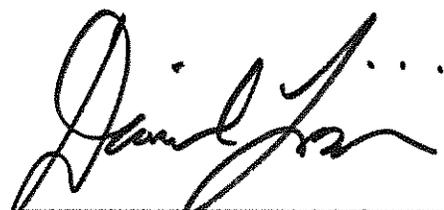
In light of the current debate on making tax extenders permanent, we urge you to include permanent parity between the transit tax benefit and the parking benefit in any final extenders package. Parity is critically needed to ensure that commuters can fully take advantage of the transit benefit and do so with certainty. Restoring the transit benefit is key to keeping our transit systems running, getting people to work, and reducing congestion on our roads.

As you know, commuters riding trains, buses, subways, and other forms of public transit were entitled to \$245 in monthly tax-free benefits to defray the costs of their commute, an amount equal to the parking benefit offered commuters who chose to drive to work. However, Congressional inaction on the transit benefit led to it being reduced by nearly half, to \$130 in 2014. As a result, many commuters who previously utilized this benefit have been forced to either switch back to driving, pay for fares that exceed the monthly benefit out of their pocket, or pay taxes on the fares that were previously excluded from taxable income. Last year, this benefit was increased retroactively, but this provides little practical assistance to commuters. We encourage you to avoid similar action this year by increasing and extending the benefit permanently.

With 2.7 million workers using the transit benefit to get from home to work, Congress should take action to ensure that riders of public transportation are provided with the same benefits as other commuters. Moreover, Congress should ensure that the benefit is restored in order to continue efforts to encourage public transportation ridership, which helps get cars off the road, reduce emissions, and eliminate lost time and delays. As Congress seeks to improve our economy and create jobs, helping people get to work must be a priority.

The transit benefit is critical to growing transit, increasing farebox recovery, supporting our economy, and increasing quality of life. We urge its inclusion in any permanent tax extenders package and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



DANIEL W. LIPINSKI
Member of Congress



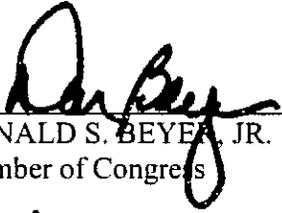
PETE KING
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



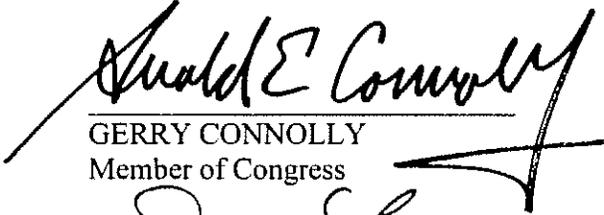
BARBARA COMSTOCK
Member of Congress



DONALD S. BEYER, JR.
Member of Congress



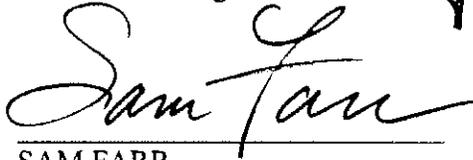
DAN DONOVAN
Member of Congress



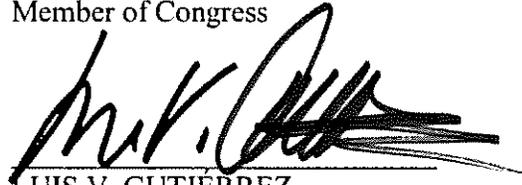
GERRY CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



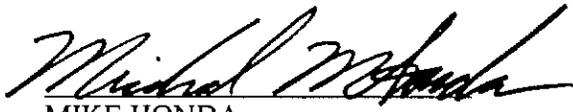
COL. PAUL COOK
Member of Congress



SAM FARR
Member of Congress



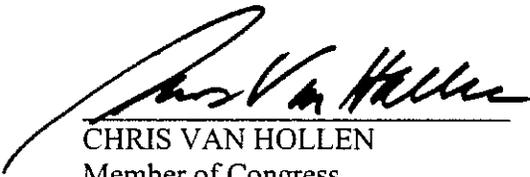
LUIS V. GUTIERREZ
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MIKE HONDA
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CAROLYN MALONEY
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CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
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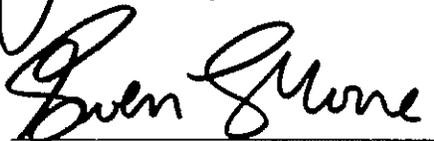
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SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
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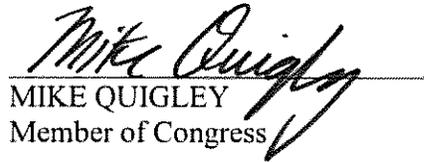
GWEN MOORE
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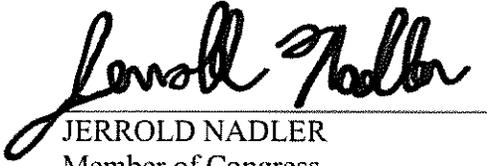
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



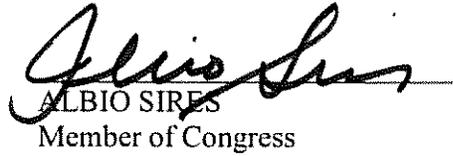
DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress



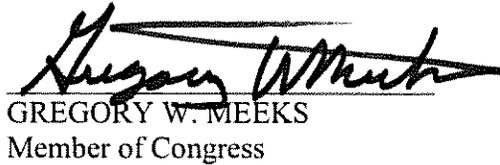
MIKE QUIGLEY
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JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



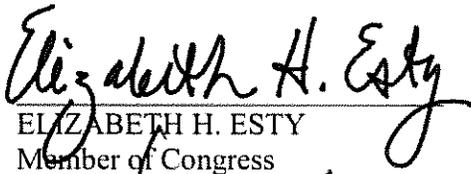
ALBIO SIRES
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GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress



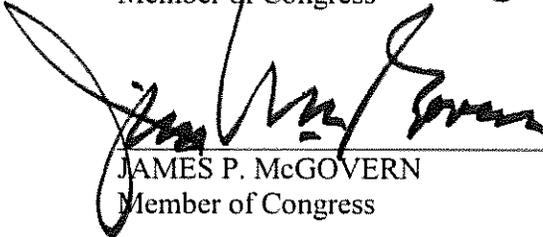
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



JAMES P. McGOVERN
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ROBERT J. WITTMAN
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BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress



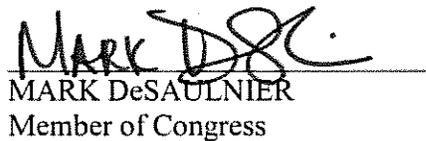
RANDY HULTGREN
Member of Congress



CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress



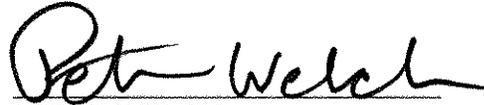
ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



MARK DeSAULNIER
Member of Congress



BOBBY SCOTT
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress



LEE ZELDIN
Member of Congress



STEVE ISRAEL
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YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress