

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
1106 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 Ryan and Ranking Member Levin:

We write to you today to urge that you restore parity between the transit tax benefit and parking benefit on a permanent basis to ensure that commuters can fully take advantage of this benefit and can do so with certainty. Restoring this 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 benefit to commuters. We encourage you to avoid similar action this year by increasing and extending it 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 continued inclusion and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


PETER KING
Member of Congress


DAN LIPINSKI
Member of Congress


DANIEL M. DONOVAN, Jr.
Member of Congress


ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress


LEONARD LANCE
Member of Congress


OWEN MOORE
Member of Congress


BARBARA COMSTOCK
Member of Congress

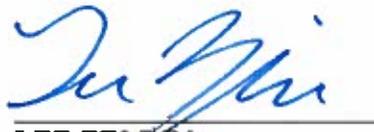

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress


CHRIS SMITH
Member of Congress


ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress

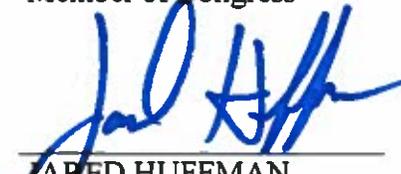

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Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


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Member of Congress

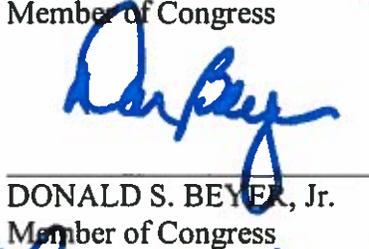

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Member of Congress

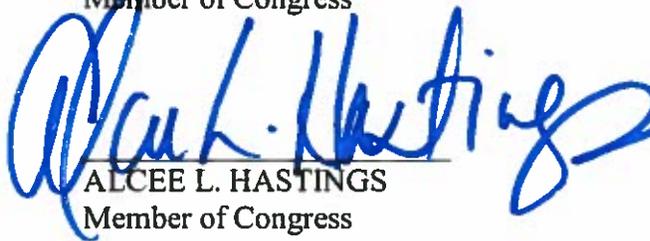

TAMMY DUCKWORTH
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Member of Congress

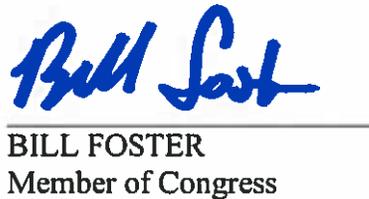

BARBARA LEE
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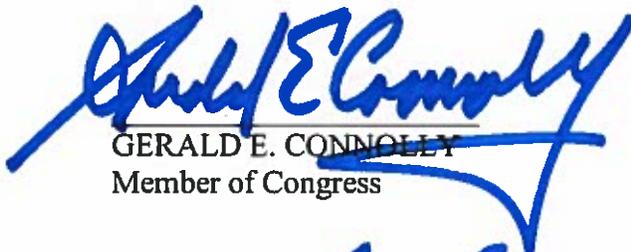

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