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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1303

April 6, 2016

The Honorable Gregory G. Nadeau
Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Nadeau:

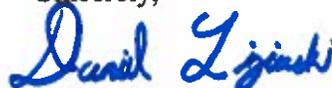
In a time of increasing attention to greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption, it is important to consider all avenues to conserve resources and limit the effects of climate change. The movement of vehicles on our network of roads and highways is vital to the national economy, and I believe it is worth understanding how to make the system work more efficiently. Specifically, I am writing to urge the Federal Highway Administration to prioritize the Pavement-Vehicle Interaction (PVI) study included as section 6022 of the FAST Act.

Even though data exists on Pavement-Vehicle Interaction, it is incomplete. PVI studies examine the relationship between vehicles and the roads they drive on. The study proposes that a vehicle's fuel consumption varies based upon the flexibility or rigidity of the pavement. MIT's Concrete Sustainability Hub and the California Department of Transportation recently released data from a study measuring PVI, which suggests that movement associated with PVI, including roughness and deflection, accounts for one percent of overall fuel consumption on California highways. However, due to the limited nature of the study and its small-scale approach, it is difficult to make widespread conclusions.

There is a strong need to fully evaluate the impact of PVI on fuel efficiency and the environment. Most of the existing data is focused on particular case studies and lack a comprehensive conclusion. There is a clear need for studying the aggregated and network level fuel consumption and using the results of such studies to make informed decisions regarding maintenance, rehabilitation, and design of pavements. As the Department of Transportation develops its five year research plan, the congressionally-directed PVI study should be made a priority.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact Jonathon Freye on my staff at (202) 225-5701 or Jonathon.Freye@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



DANIEL LIPINSKI
Member of Congress

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