

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2015

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

As you engage in your work with the conference committee on a long-term surface transportation authorization, we write to urge you to incorporate language that would add transit oriented development (TOD) as an eligible activity under the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) program. This would provide substantial benefit to Chicagoland and many other cities and towns across the country by enabling projects that would modernize our infrastructure and boost the local economy.

Providing eligibility for TOD under the RRIF program, which we believe is already authorized in the RRIF statute, has strong bipartisan support in both chambers and amongst a number of the conferees. TOD offers the opportunity to drive economic development and using the RRIF program for station development purposes would allow for numerous projects to commence with low-cost financing that might otherwise be unavailable. These projects are railroad related and would benefit passenger rail service by growing ridership and generating revenue that can be reinvested in railroad operations.

We support the inclusion of language adding TOD as an eligible activity under the RRIF program and appreciated your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



BOB DOLD
Member of Congress



DAN LIRINSKI
Member of Congress



RODNEY DAVIS
Member of Congress



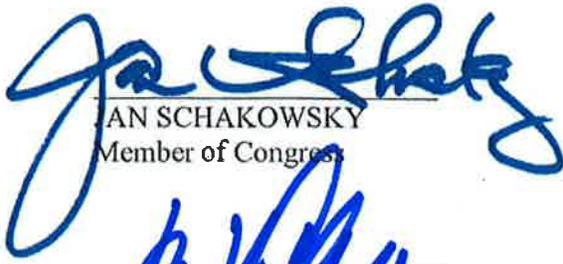
MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress



ADAM KINZINGER
Member of Congress



DANNY DAVIS
Member of Congress



JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



LUIS GUTIERREZ
Member of Congress



ROBIN KELLY
Member of Congress