



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

April 7, 2008

The Hon. Christopher J. Dodd
448 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Rosa DeLauro
2262 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Joseph I. Lieberman
706 Senate Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Christopher Shays
1126 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. John B. Larson
1005 Longworth House Office Building 501
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Christopher Murphy
Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Joseph Courtney
215 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Connecticut Congressional Delegation:

I am writing to express my disappointment and concern that Connecticut's share of Federal Highway Administration funds for the 2008 fiscal year was reduced by \$45.55 million, including \$21.9 million in bridge rescissions. I strongly encourage our entire delegation to make every effort to maintain full funding for FY 2009.

At a time when Connecticut is undertaking a host of ambitious initiatives to rebuild our transportation infrastructure, these rescissions are especially misguided. I am fully aware that every state saw these across-the-board reductions, but that only magnifies the short-sightedness of these actions. Connecticut knows only too well of the dangers of a bridge collapse and the failure of the I-35 bridge in Minneapolis just eight months ago should have confirmed for everyone in Washington how crucial this funding is for each and every state.

Congress must keep its end of the bargain it has traditionally maintained with the states for these critical infrastructure requirements. If that requires an increase in revenues, then Congress needs to step up and deal with that issue, not make unilateral rescissions to states like ours. Every year that funding is reduced or delayed means another year that our state must reduce or delay important transportation projects. This is simply unacceptable.

I look forward to working with you and the Administration on rectifying this untenable situation as funds for FY 2009 and the overall SAFETEA-LU reauthorization are debated in the coming months.

Sincerely,

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

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