

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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July 15, 2015

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, applauds the introduction and markup of S. 1732, the "Comprehensive Transportation and Consumer Protection Act of 2015" for the reauthorization of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21).

The Chamber believes that in order to be competitive in the global marketplace and grow jobs in America, increased investment in transportation is crucial. Roads, bridges, and transit systems have proven to be unsustainable under continuous short-term extensions. Without long-term certainty, businesses cannot plan for hiring or capital expenditures; land, labor, and capital are more expensive as the time value of money increases project costs; projects that need multi-year funding commitments are delayed; and opportunities for economic development and economic growth are lost. The Committee's action helps to move forward toward a six-year reauthorization bill providing states and local governments the ability to plan for and deliver large-scale, multi-year projects.

The Chamber is supportive of efforts to improve productivity for the less-than-truckload industry through allowing twin-33 foot trailer configurations, and to address the driver shortage by giving 18-year olds the ability to attain commercial driver's licenses for interstate trucking.

The Chamber commends the Committee on the important first step of introducing and marking up a multi-year surface transportation authorization and we look forward to working with Congress to build on the reform success of MAP-21, stabilize the Highway Trust Fund, and find ways to grow investment in transit, roads, and bridges so each state and region can get out of the system what they need to be successful.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation