

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
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TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

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, supports the cloture motion as a first step toward passage of legislation to reauthorize the federal highway, transit, and transportation safety program.

The Chamber has previously expressed support for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's six-year reauthorization bill. We believe 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 Senate's action to begin debate on a transportation reauthorization package 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 important to business.

The Chamber urges the Senate to begin debate on legislation reauthorizing the federal highway, transit, and transportation program. 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. The Chamber will also continue to evaluate support or opposition to other elements of the legislation, including amendments, as more becomes known and as the debate moves forward.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten