

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 7, 2018

The Honorable Susan M. Collins  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Dirksen 184  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Hart 125  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

As the Subcommittee begins its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write in support of the National Infrastructure Investments program (TIGER) and urge the inclusion of robust funding for this effective program. We have long supported investments that tackle the complex multimodal transportation needs of our communities through the TIGER program, and we were disappointed that the program was again eliminated in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request.

Since its creation in 2009, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has awarded \$5.6 billion to 463 innovative, multimodal projects in every state in the nation, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Of these, more than 170 projects supported rural communities. As a result, critical investments have been made in road, rail, transit, and port projects of regional and national significance.

Each year the demand for TIGER far exceeds the amount of funding available. In 2017, DOT received 452 applications from all 50 states requesting \$6.1 billion in funding for the ninth round of the program. This amounted to 11 times more than the \$500 million included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-31). Over the life of the program, DOT has received nearly 7,600 applications for more than \$145 billion in transportation projects throughout the country, which clearly demonstrates the need for continued investment in the TIGER program.

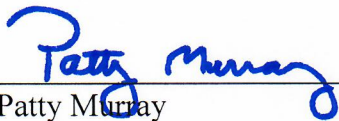
TIGER is a unique, cost-effective, and competitive program that uses outcome oriented selection criteria and leverages non-federal investment to solve complex multimodal transportation and economic development challenges. For every federal dollar invested, TIGER generates \$3.6 dollars of additional investment from private, state, and local sources. It serves as an important complement to DOT's formula-based programs, and remains one of the few opportunities for local agencies to secure federal transportation funding to achieve creative infrastructure solutions

to reduce congestion, increase safety, address freight bottlenecks, and expand access.

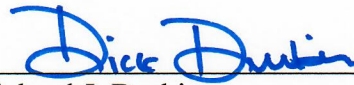
We have all seen firsthand the difference TIGER can make in our states, and appreciate the Subcommittee's continued strong support for this bipartisan program. In light of DOT's recently released Notice of Funding Opportunity for the \$1.5 billion in TIGER funding included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-141), we believe it is critical that the Subcommittee include the strongest language possible instructing DOT to execute the TIGER program as Congress and our constituents have come to expect above and beyond direction provided in previous bills. As our national infrastructure continues to face serious challenges, DOT should not be adding new, onerous, and unnecessary requirements to a proven program which has been successfully helping our communities deliver transportation projects year after year.

With your support this important program will continue to put people to work, boost regional economies, and improve our nation's infrastructure.

Sincerely,



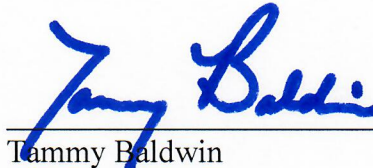
Patty Murray  
United States Senator




Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



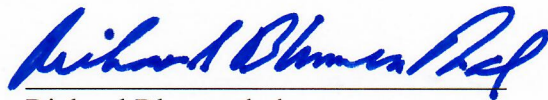
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



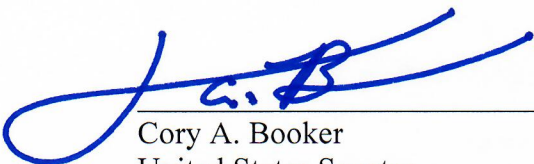
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

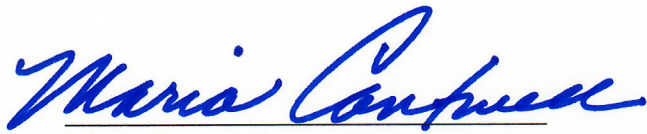


Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

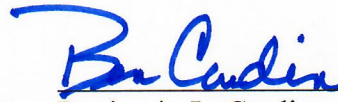


Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

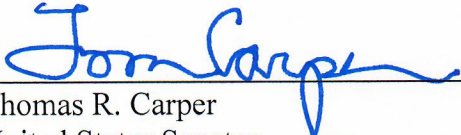




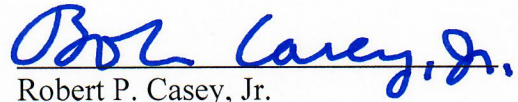
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



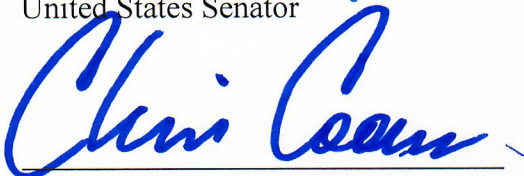
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



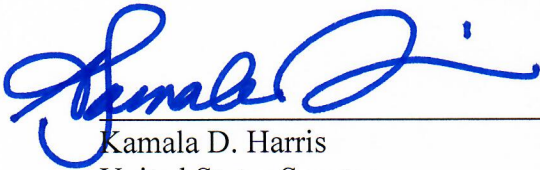
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



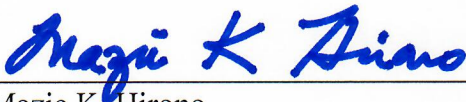
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



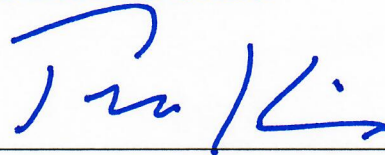
Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



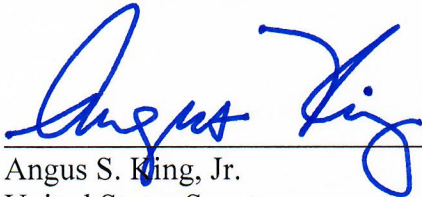
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



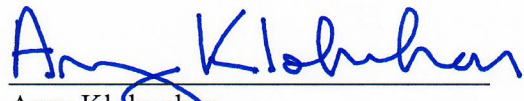
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



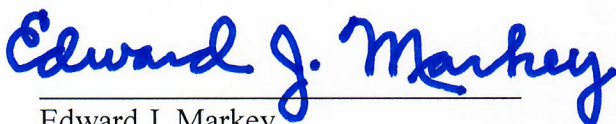
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



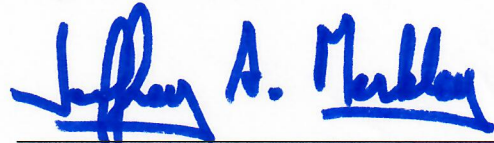
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



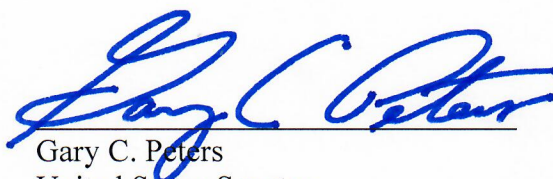
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



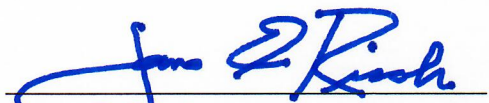
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



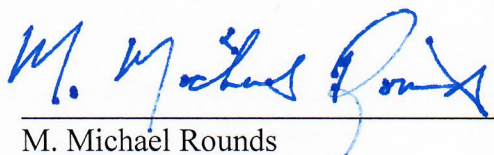
Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



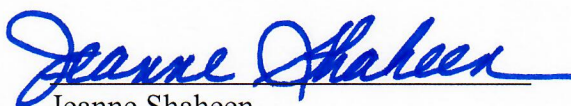
James E. Risch  
United States Senator



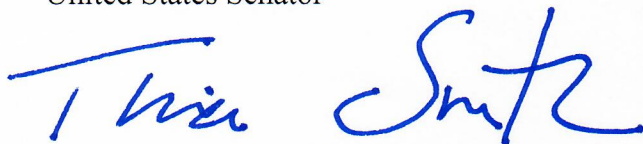
M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



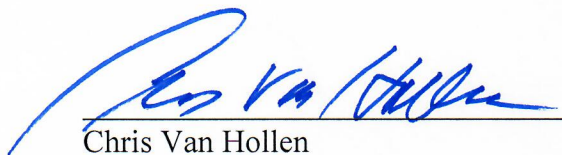
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



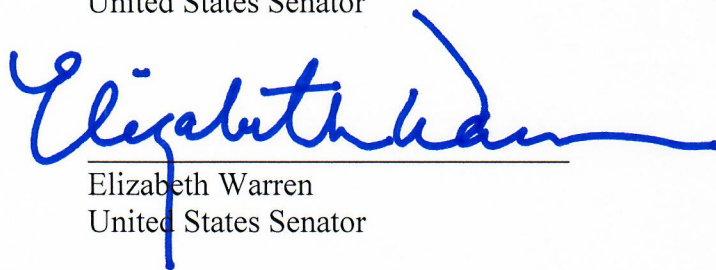
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator