

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

First, we write to share our congratulations on your confirmation to serve as Secretary of Transportation. We are eager to work with you to address the many challenges that our current infrastructure system faces.

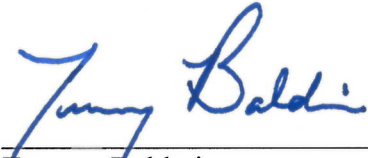
We write to you today to express our concern about the composition of the Motorcyclist Advisory Council, an important group that advises the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on transportation issues from the unique perspective of the motorcyclists. As Secretary of Transportation, you will be able to appoint members to serve on the Council, which Congress established more than a decade ago to serve as an official forum for motorcyclists to advise on issues they face on the road. The Council has always included at least four representatives from state and federal motorcycle associations—thereby ensuring the motorcycle community has a seat at the table.

After a lapse in authorization, Congress re-established the Motorcyclist Advisory Council in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act to coordinate with and advise FHWA on issues of great concern to motorcyclists, including road and barrier design, construction and maintenance practices, and implementation of intelligent transportation system technologies. As FHWA works to implement the transportation bill, the agency recently announced the establishment of the Council and put out a call for nominations. As described by FHWA, the Council shall comprise of not more than ten members, appointed by the Secretary of Transportation, for terms up to two years. We are concerned that the Council, as described by FHWA, will not include adequate representation of the motorcycle community. Limited representation for members of the motorcycling community may stifle the full spectrum of perspectives that motorcyclists have, particularly based on where riders live, in important conversations seeking to improve roadway safety.

To facilitate the success of the Council, we strongly encourage you to embrace the original composition of the Council as it was authorized in the 2005 surface transportation legislation, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The 2005 Motorcyclist Advisory Council reserved four seats on the Council for members of state and national level motorcycle riders associations to provide a wide range of motorcyclist insights and perspectives on roadway safety. In addition, the 2005 Council included six members from diverse backgrounds and educational expertise, including local government officials, specialists in traffic safety engineering and highway infrastructure. We believe this composition provides balanced insights to fulfill the purpose of the Motorcyclist Advisory Council, as it was intended by Congress.

For that reason, before the members of the Motorcyclist Advisory Council are determined, we encourage you to ensure that there is a balanced and fair composition to the nominations, in order to adequately represent the concerns of motorcyclists. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

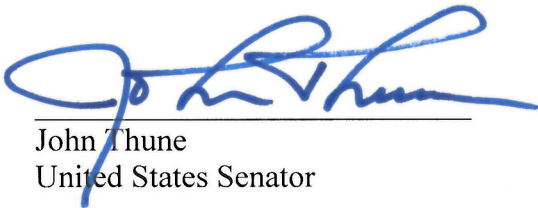
Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



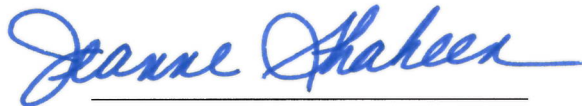
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



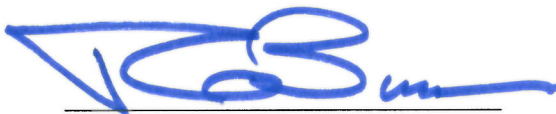
Thom Tillis
United States Senator



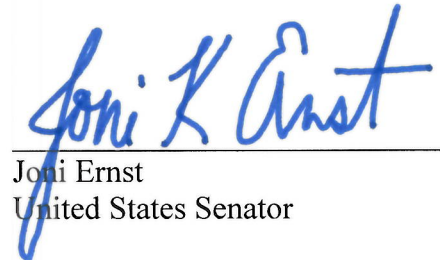
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



Joni Ernst
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator