

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States Congress
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2008

Dear Madam Speaker:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to provide relief for Americans struggling with record high gas prices by bringing the **Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act** (H.R. 6052) to the House floor. This legislation would help meet the growing demand for affordable, convenient public transportation in cities across America by allowing local transit agencies to expand and improve service.

Our nation's dependence on oil has become increasingly painful. The average American family is now spending close to 100 dollars a week on gasoline alone. As gas prices rise, people are seeking alternatives to the pump. In the first quarter of 2008, public transit ridership rose by 85 million trips compared to 2007. At the same time, Americans drove almost 100 million fewer miles in the first quarter of 2008 compared to the first quarter of 2007.

People are turning to public transit because it reduces their gasoline consumption and costs. A typical transit rider consumes about half as much gasoline on average as a person with no access to transit. Nationwide, public transportation saves our country over four billion gallons of fuel each year and billions of dollars in gasoline costs.

We can reduce our dependence on oil with solutions that make it easier for Americans to drive less. Two-thirds of oil in the United States goes to transportation, with the largest share consumed by cars and trucks. Federal transportation funding dramatically favors new road projects and lane expansion, while transit agencies are struggling to keep up with record high ridership. By supporting and expanding modern bus service, light rail, commuter rail and transit-oriented development, we can help working families pay less at the pump and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

The undersigned organizations applaud your leadership in taking on this issue and urge you to bring the **Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act** (H.R. 6052) to the floor to allow transit agencies to expand and improve service and make public transportation accessible and affordable for more Americans.

Sincerely,

Janette Sadik-Khan
Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation

Geoff Anderson
President and CEO
Smart Growth America

Jeff Boothe
Chair, New Starts Working Group
Exec. Director, Community Streetcar Coalition

Anne Canby
President
Surface Transportation Policy Project

Jason Jordan
Policy Director
American Planning Association

Garry Bliss
Chief of Policy and Legislative Affairs
Mayor's Office, City of Providence (RI)

Damien C. Graham
Government Affairs Manager
Triangle Transit (NC)

Michael Replogle
Transportation Director
Environmental Defense

Colin Peppard
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Friends of the Earth

Anita Gulotta-Connelly
President and Managing Director
Milwaukee County Transit System

Christopher Strong, P.E.
Director of Transportation
City of Oshkosh (WI)

Gwen Larson
Transit Manager
City of Eau Claire (WI)

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City of Manitowoc (WI)

Don Williams
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Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority

John English
General Manager and CEO
Utah Transit Authority

Shelley Poticha
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Reconnecting America

Deb Hubsmith
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Ellen Larson Vaughan
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