

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



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LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

(202) 637-5057

February 10, 2012

Dear Senator:


On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing in strong support of the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century" (MAP-21). We applaud the Chair and Ranking Member of the Environment and Public Works Committee for establishing a bipartisan tone at the outset of the debate and for recognizing that Congress's top priority should be to pass a multi-year reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act.

Support for surface transportation has historically crossed party lines and united both business and labor. With unemployment exceeding 8 percent for the third year, and even higher levels of joblessness in the construction industry, the need for a multi-year investment in infrastructure jobs has never been greater. MAP-21 would protect 1.8 million existing jobs and create up to a million new jobs repairing and modernizing our nation's deteriorating roads and transit systems.

MAP-21 would not only create millions of good jobs for U.S. workers, it would also help maintain U.S. competitiveness around the world. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, America has a \$2.2 trillion deficit in existing infrastructure, and we are falling further and further behind the rest of the world in creating new transportation systems for the 21st century. We need to put people to work building our future and we cannot wait.

We urge senators to support passage of MAP-21 and defeat any amendments that would undermine the broad support this legislation has achieved.

Sincerely,



William Samuel, Director
Government Affairs Department