

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 19, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

While Congress is acting to stimulate job growth, please consider making permanent the increased levels for transit benefits provided by the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These benefits are a perfect example of how Federal policy provides employers with an opportunity to help their employees save money while at the same time conserving energy, reducing congestion, and improving air quality.

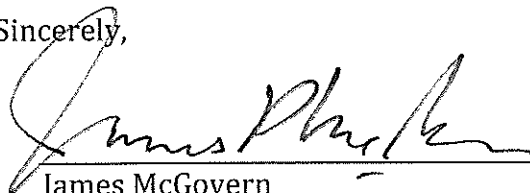
For most families, transportation is the second largest household expense. Having access to low cost transportation choices makes a difference for families struggling to make ends meet. Across the country, increased public transit ridership numbers reflect these trends.

In 2008, public transit ridership hit its highest levels in 52 years. Last year, while not reaching the record numbers reached in 2008, ridership topped 10 billion. It was the fourth year in a row that ridership exceeded 10 billion trips. Public transit achieved these remarkable numbers despite severe unemployment, falling gas prices, and service cutbacks stemming from a challenging budget environment.

ARRA temporarily established parity by increasing the transit and vanpool portion of the benefit to \$230/month, the same as parking. Unless Congress acts, however, the transit and vanpool portion of the benefit will revert back to \$120/month at the end of the year. This will choke off a vital resource for workers at a time when transit benefits are more valuable than ever.

Under your leadership, Congress has taken great strides to repairing and revitalizing public transit systems across the country. We urge you to help preserve these increased transit benefit levels.

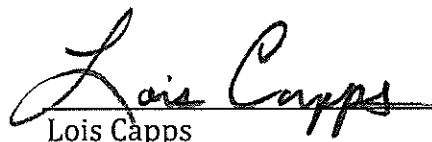
Sincerely,



James McGovern  
Member of Congress



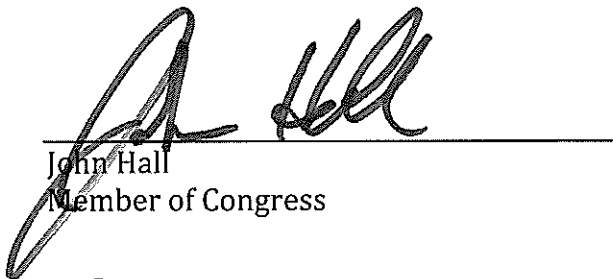
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



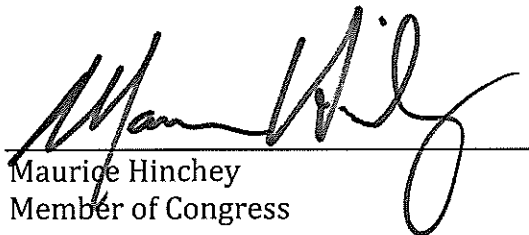
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress



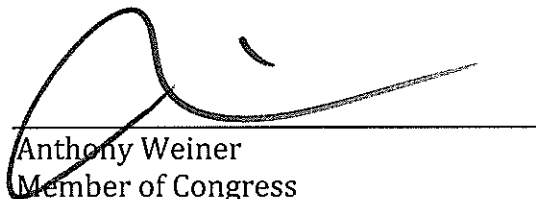
John Hall  
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey  
Member of Congress



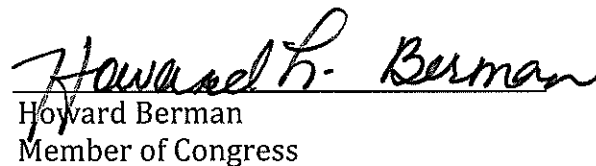
Michael McMahon  
Member of Congress



Anthony Weiner  
Member of Congress



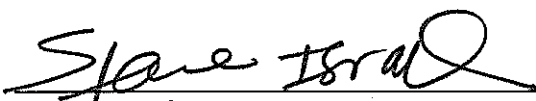
Bob Filner  
Member of Congress



Howard Berman  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



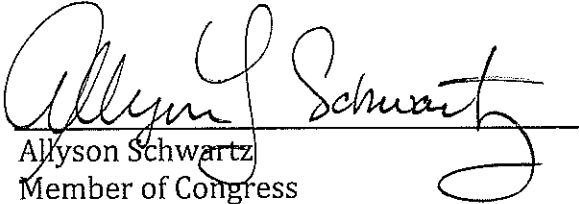
Gerald Connolly  
Member of Congress



Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress



James Moran  
Member of Congress



Allyson Schwartz  
Member of Congress



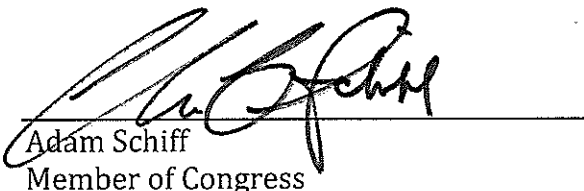
Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



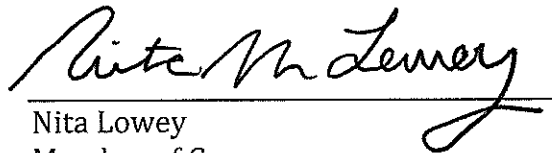
Bill Delahunt  
Member of Congress



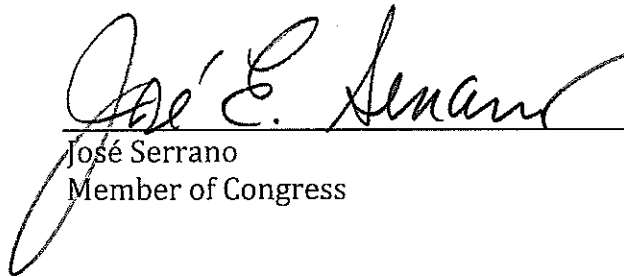
Barney Frank  
Member of Congress



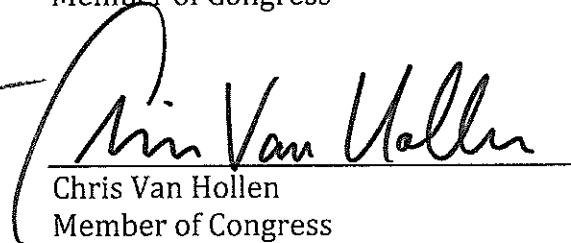
Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress



Nita Lowey  
Member of Congress



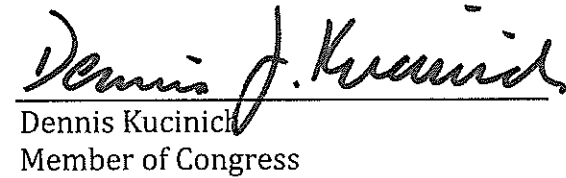
José Serrano  
Member of Congress



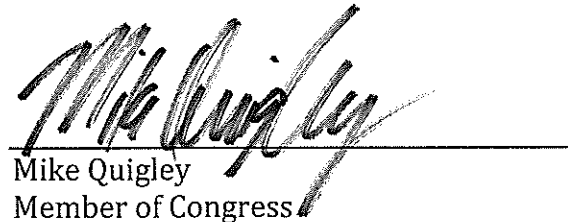
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



Dennis Kucinich  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress