

MARK S. CRITZ
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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
January 31, 2012

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The Honorable John L. Mica
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mica:

As the Committee moves forward in reauthorizing the surface transportation bill this year, I urge you to consider including language that would allow the use of toll credits for funding transportation projects in the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS).

As you know, the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) contained language that modified how the non-federal portion of transportation projects could be financed. As a result, toll credits could no longer be utilized as part of the non-federal funding for ADHS. The Appalachian region – composed of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia – has seen numerous highway projects stopped due to this change.

Last April, I testified to the Committee on the need to repeal the toll credit language from SAFETEA-LU. In my testimony, I emphasized how road construction will help to facilitate business growth and economic development. The long term effects of ADHS road completion would assist in the development of trade corridors that will help industries and businesses along these routes.

Allowing toll credits to be used in ADHS transportation funding would provide an economic boon to all states in the Appalachian region. Specifically in my home of western Pennsylvania, we continue to explore our natural gas reserves as an alternative energy source to foreign oil. It is vital we have the infrastructure in place to transport this fuel across our country. Repealing the toll credit language from SAFETEA-LU in the next surface transportation bill will help ensure the arteries that connect the Appalachian region to the rest of our country are available.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter and I look forward to working with you and the Committee on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Critz', written over a blue horizontal line.

MARK S. CRITZ
Member of Congress