

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

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1106 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Ryan and Ranking Member Levin:

As members of the Blue Dog Coalition, we respectfully encourage you to hold a hearing to examine the path forward for a bipartisan infrastructure package that creates jobs and helps businesses move goods and services critical to a strong 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. With the insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund looming, we believe that Congress must act in a bipartisan manner to ensure that we are able to make critical investments in our nation's aging infrastructure to boost the economy and put more Americans back to work. The Blue Dog Coalition is committed to that goal and we invite you to meet with our members to discuss commonsense solutions for moving our country forward.

Highways and transit serve as the lifeblood of our economy. There is considerable bipartisan enthusiasm for passing a multi-year transportation bill this Congress, but passing any legislation is dependent upon a long-term funding solution. As you know, roads, bridges, and transit systems are in a state of disrepair across the country and the Highway Trust Fund can no longer sustain current needs. It is the position of the Blue Dogs that any comprehensive infrastructure package should be fully paid for in a fiscally responsible manner and a hearing would allow Ways and Means Committee members the opportunity to explore avenues for providing sustainable, reliable, and responsible transportation funding and planning well into the future.

The Blue Dog Coalition welcomes the opportunity to hear your thoughts and perspectives on how we can best invest in America's aging infrastructure, grow our economy and create good-paying jobs. We look forward to meeting with you in the coming weeks. Please feel free to contact us or Liz Margolis with the Blue Dog Coalition at x6-1137 or [liz.margolis@mail.house.gov](mailto:liz.margolis@mail.house.gov) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kurt Schrader  
Co-Chair for Administration



Jim Cooper  
Co-Chair for Policy



Jim Costa  
Co-Chair for Communications



Brad Ashford



Cheri Bustos



Gwen Graham



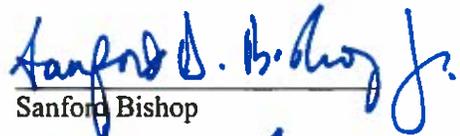
Collin C. Peterson



David Scott



Mike Thompson



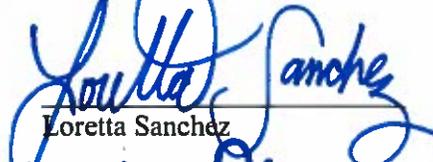
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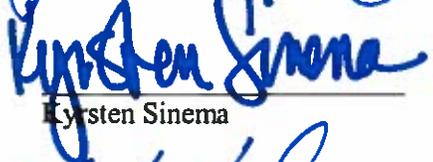
Henry Cuellar



Daniel Lipinski



Loretta Sanchez



Kyrsten Sinema



Filemon Vela