

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 26, 2013

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation
Housing and Urban Development
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation
Housing and Urban Development
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC

We write to urge your support in the fiscal year 2014 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill for full funding of the New Starts Program. Doing so would have the effect of helping upgrade our national infrastructure and spurring economic growth in our states.

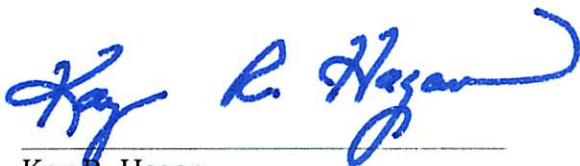
As you know, last year the subcommittee included enough funding in the bill passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee to cover all of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) priorities for the New Starts Program. While, the enacted continuing resolution and the application of sequestration cuts will not provide funding to cover all priorities, we appreciate the subcommittee's continued commitment to this program.

For fiscal year 2014, the FTA has requested \$1.98 billion to cover 17 projects that currently have a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) and three others recommended to receive one during next fiscal year. FFGAs provide assurance of the Federal government's financial commitment to a particular project, a commitment that we believe should be honored. Additionally, adequate funding will ensure the timely progression of all 20 projects and their associated job growth and economic development.

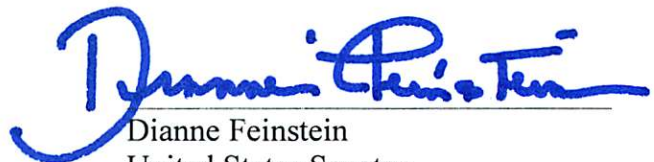
These 20 projects represent significant investments in 12 states. Therefore we respectfully ask that you include \$1.98 billion to fund the New Starts Program. This action is absolutely necessary to maintain momentum in projects around the country.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter and we look forward to working with you for full support of the New Starts Program.

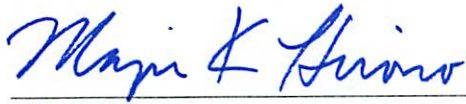
Sincerely,



Kay R. Hagan
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Chuck Schumer
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



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