

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON
25TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

MEMBER OF REPUBLICAN WHIP TEAM

MEMBER OF REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE

CONGRESSIONAL UNMANNED SYSTEMS CAUCUS
CO-CHAIRMAN



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0525

2310 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1956

26650 THE OLD ROAD, SUITE 203
SANTA CLARITA, CA 91381
(661) 254-2111

1008 WEST AVENUE M-14, SUITE E-1
PALMDALE, CA 93551
(661) 274-9688

www.mckeon.house.gov

May 8, 2013

Chairman Tom Latham
Committee on Appropriations
Transportation, HUD
2358-A Rayburn HOB

Ranking Member Ed Pastor
Committee on Appropriations
Transportation, HUD
1016 Longworth HOB

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Pastor:

I am writing to express my interest in the New Starts program for the FY14 appropriations process. New Starts would help carry-out existing and pending grant agreements in funding for two Los Angeles County transportation projects that once implemented, will strengthen ridership on planned transit systems across Los Angeles County over the next ten years.

The New Starts program will provide easy access to many businesses in Los Angeles County, revitalizing the region. For the past five decades, the program has provided essential funding for new fixed guide way construction such as: commuter rail, subway, light rail, ferries, and bus rapid transit throughout my district and Los Angeles County.

Congress has always played an essential role in structuring the New Starts program by mandating that the FTA ceaselessly evaluate New Starts projects in accordance with its forecasted capital costs, operating costs, and the ability to assemble local funds to finance at least 40% of the construction. The FTA must also examine each project's cost effectiveness, mobility improvements, environmental benefits, land use, operating effectiveness, and economic development. These evaluations must continue to be strengthened to ensure good stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for your consideration of the program and I appreciate your continuing support for a strong federal transportation program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon". The signature is stylized and includes a large initial "H" and "M".

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress