

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 7, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
The Capitol S-221
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
The Capitol S-230
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
The Capitol H-232
United States House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
The Capitol H-204
United States House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner:

As representatives for the New Jersey/New York metropolitan region, we want to call your attention to a “ready-to-go” project that will create six thousand jobs annually for ten years and fifty thousand permanent jobs in our region.

The Trans-Hudson Mass Transit Tunnel project is the first new rail tunnel under the Hudson River in 100 years and the largest transit project being designed in the nation. It is ranked among the best and most cost-effective projects by the Federal Transit Administration. When completed this new tunnel will double commuter rail capacity in the New Jersey-New York region, taking 22,000 cars off our roadways every day and reducing greenhouse gases.

New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine and New York Governor David Paterson have worked hard to secure \$5.7 billion in local funds, which is more than half the total \$8.7 billion needed to construct this new tunnel. The project is ready to advance the first \$3.1 billion in contracts early next year, creating six thousand jobs in the first year of construction. However, federal funding for new transit capital projects is extremely limited and without action the \$5.7 billion already raised will sit idle.

With the proper federal investment, projects like the Trans-Hudson Mass Transit will put people to work, spur the economy, and build an infrastructure that will pay dividends for generations. To that end, we urge you to include expanded federal funding for transit capital projects including this key project in the upcoming stimulus bill.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Lautenberg

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Robert Menendez

Chuck Schumer

Bill Pascrell Jr

Jul A. Loblomb

Steven D. Rothman

Donald W. Payne

Robert E. Auer

Elvin L. Enyeh

Alonso Siles

John Hall

Rudolph W. Holt

Frank Pallone Jr.

cc: Hon. Daniel K. Inouye
Hon. Thad Cochran
Hon. David R. Obey
Hon. Jerry Lewis
Hon. Christopher J. Dodd
Hon. Richard C. Shelby
Hon. James L. Oberstar
Hon. John Mica