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November 13, 2009

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar:

I am writing you to thank you for your efforts to produce a reauthorization bill for federal transportation programs. Until we pass a permanent reauthorization bill, many critical programs and projects will not be able to qualify for federal funding. One of the projects that has not been considered because of the delay is a request I made to your committee earlier this year for the Route 58/Holland Road Widening project in Suffolk, Virginia.

The Route 58/Holland Road Widening project would strengthen local transportation infrastructure and attract investors who see the region as a potential location for the development of intermodal warehouse and distribution facilities. The construction and operation of these intermodal parks would facilitate job growth and encourage future investment in the region, representing a large economic boost to the entire Southeastern Virginia region. Now more than ever, this request is vital. In the coming weeks and months, 1,100 employees of the International Paper Co. sawmill and paper mill in Southeastern Virginia will face layoffs because the mill is closing. The closure of the mill is a devastating blow to the entire community and the Commonwealth of Virginia, and we must do what we can to encourage other economic development opportunities. By supporting this project and passing a permanent transportation reauthorization bill, we can improve transportation infrastructure and stimulate economic development in this region.

I look forward to working with you on this particular request. If you have any questions with respect to the foregoing, or should you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me or Andrew Donahue from my staff at (202) 225-6365 / andrew.donahue@mail.house.gov. Thank you in advance for your consideration. With kind personal regards, I am

Yours Truly,

J. RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress