



June 15, 2020

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chair
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2164 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves,

On behalf of America's largest American owned and operated bus manufacturer, the nearly 1,000 U.S. men and women we employ including those represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and the over 1,450 suppliers that support us and our customers - the public transit agencies across the United States I write to thank you for your extraordinary leadership and express our strong support for H.R. 7095, the "Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act" (INVEST in America Act).

The INVEST in America Act makes critical investments for surface transportation infrastructure, including \$105 billion for public transportation. The bill recognizes the immediate need for public transit agencies to continue to provide essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic and support our nation's economic recovery. The infusion of \$5.8B of additional FY21 transit funding and the allowance for these funds to be used for both capital and operating expenses at 100% Federal Share provides transit authorities the flexibility to continue to invest in their system at a time when local tax revenues are severely impacted. It also provides the industry with a long-term framework to address the more than \$100 billion state-of-good-repair backlog in public transit infrastructure while providing a more certain outlook for the industry's supply base.

We applaud the focus on increasing ridership and frequency in the bill as we share in the Committee's vision of a robust, reliable, and clean transit system built by U.S. manufacturers. The investments described in this bill will help transit meet growing mobility demands, create family-wage jobs, expand U.S. manufacturing and supply chains, and grow the economy. It also puts us on the path to increase access to opportunities for all Americans and build more equitable communities.

As a strong supporter of the FTA's Buy America program, we also wish to thank you for your focus on eliminating loopholes in the program which have allowed foreign bus builders to circumvent the program's intent. We welcome the opportunity to continue to discuss how this and other programs can be strengthened to support the creation of more U.S. jobs.

These investments are critical to jumpstart our economic recovery. The time is now to make an important investment in our national infrastructure that will provide staying power to drive our economy for years to come.

Thank you again for your leadership on these issues. We look forward to working collaboratively with you and your colleagues on both sides of the aisle as this bill advances through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Derek Maunus
President & CEO

cc: The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chair, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rodney Davis, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Dan Lipinski, Chairman, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rick Crawford, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives

Members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives