

June 16, 2020



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Jerdine Johnson
William P. McDonald

Genesee County
Pending

Livingston County
Pending

Ontario County
Geoffrey Astles
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Orleans County
James Bensley

Seneca County
Edward W. White
Secretary

Wayne County
Michael P. Jankowski
Treasurer

Wyoming County
Rich Kosmerl

ATU Local 282
Jacques Chapman

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

Dear Chairman DeFazio,

I write today on behalf of the more than 900 employees of the Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority in Rochester, NY, to express my strong support for the historic levels of bus transit investments included in H.R. 2, the "Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act" (INVEST in America Act). By helping transit agencies meet a critical need of upgrading and replacing aging buses, this robust funding will ensure we can maintain a level of service that many in our communities depend on to access jobs, health care, education, and other critical destinations.

Buses are the backbone of transit service across America, providing more than one-half of all trips on public transportation. However, largely due to a 57% reduction of federal funding for buses under MAP-21, the amount of buses operating past useful life has increased 48% while buses operating past 15 years increased a staggering 104%. In addition, bus fleet size has shrunk by 22% (16,304 buses) in just four years. It's clear the diversion in resources away from bus programs has taken its toll on transit service.

The INVEST in America Act will help address this challenge by making critical investments for surface transportation infrastructure, including \$105 billion for public transportation overall and over \$9 billion for bus and bus facility infrastructure. In addition to a long-term vision to address the state-of-good-repair backlog in public transit infrastructure, the bill also 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.

Overall, the investments into bus infrastructure included in the bill will go a long way toward upgrading and replacing our aging and shrinking bus fleets, boosting economic growth and helping enhance bus service in communities like ours across the country. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on both sides of the aisle as this bill advances through the legislative process. Thank you for your continued support and leadership on these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Carpenter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the name.

Bill Carpenter, CEO

June 16, 2020



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

Dear Ranking Member Graves,

I write today on behalf of the more than 900 employees of the Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority in Rochester, NY, to express my strong support for the historic levels of bus transit investments included in H.R. 2, the "Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act" (INVEST in America Act). By helping transit agencies meet a critical need of upgrading and replacing aging buses, this robust funding will ensure we can maintain a level of service that many in our communities depend on to access jobs, health care, education, and other critical destinations.

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Bill Carpenter, CEO