

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 4, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1106 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Levin:

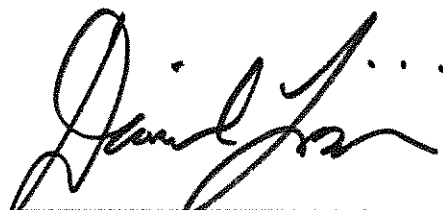
In light of the current debate on making tax extenders permanent, we urge you to include permanent parity between the transit tax benefit and the parking benefit in any final extenders package. Parity is critically needed to ensure that commuters can fully take advantage of the transit benefit and do so with certainty. Restoring the transit benefit is key to keeping our transit systems running, getting people to work, and reducing congestion on our roads.

As you know, commuters riding trains, buses, subways, and other forms of public transit were entitled to \$245 in monthly tax-free benefits to defray the costs of their commute, an amount equal to the parking benefit offered commuters who chose to drive to work. However, Congressional inaction on the transit benefit led to it being reduced by nearly half, to \$130 in 2014. As a result, many commuters who previously utilized this benefit have been forced to either switch back to driving, pay for fares that exceed the monthly benefit out of their pocket, or pay taxes on the fares that were previously excluded from taxable income. Last year, this benefit was increased retroactively, but this provides little practical assistance to commuters. We encourage you to avoid similar action this year by increasing and extending the benefit permanently.

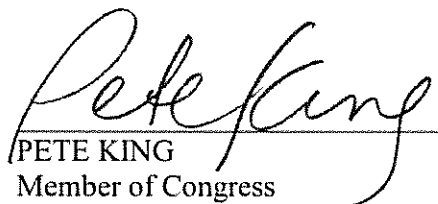
With 2.7 million workers using the transit benefit to get from home to work, Congress should take action to ensure that riders of public transportation are provided with the same benefits as other commuters. Moreover, Congress should ensure that the benefit is restored in order to continue efforts to encourage public transportation ridership, which helps get cars off the road, reduce emissions, and eliminate lost time and delays. As Congress seeks to improve our economy and create jobs, helping people get to work must be a priority.

The transit benefit is critical to growing transit, increasing farebox recovery, supporting our economy, and increasing quality of life. We urge its inclusion in any permanent tax extenders package and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



DANIEL W. LIPINSKI  
Member of Congress



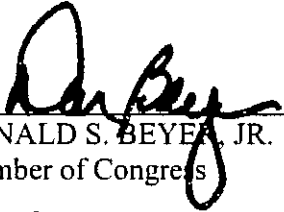
PETE KING  
Member of Congress



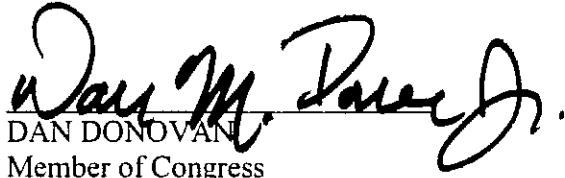
EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress



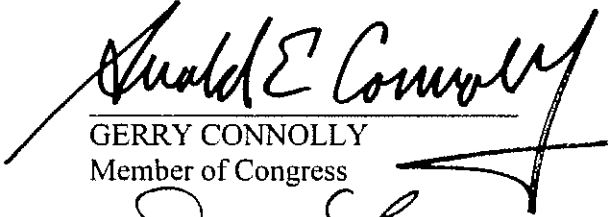
BARBARA COMSTOCK  
Member of Congress



DONALD S. BEYE, JR.  
Member of Congress



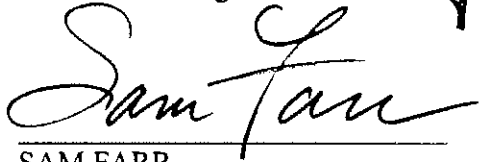
DAN DONOVAN  
Member of Congress



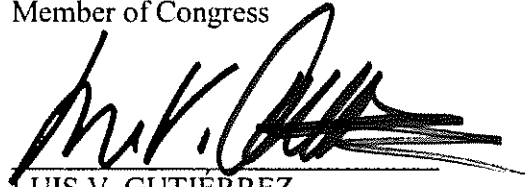
GERRY CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress



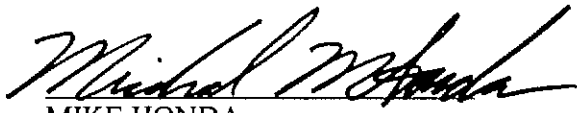
COL. PAUL COOK  
Member of Congress



SAM FARR  
Member of Congress



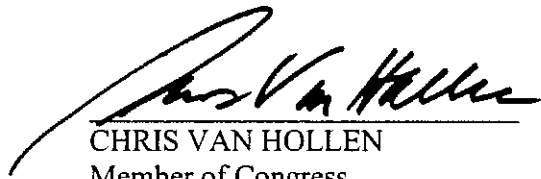
LUIS V. GUTIERREZ  
Member of Congress



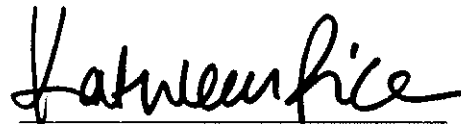
MIKE HONDA  
Member of Congress



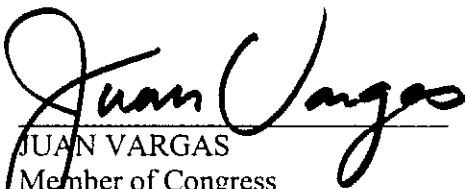
CAROLYN MALONEY  
Member of Congress



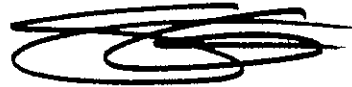
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
Member of Congress



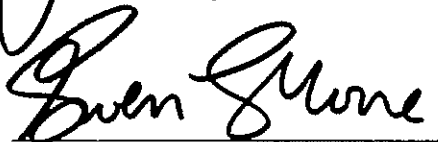
KATHLEEN M. RICE  
Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS  
Member of Congress



SEAN PATRICK MALONEY  
Member of Congress



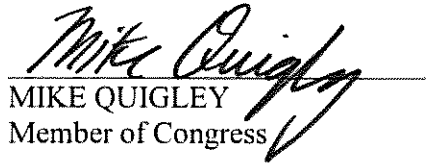
GWEN MOORE  
Member of Congress



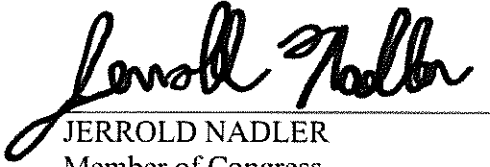
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON  
Member of Congress



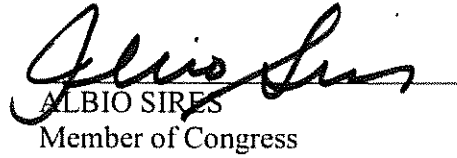
DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.  
Member of Congress



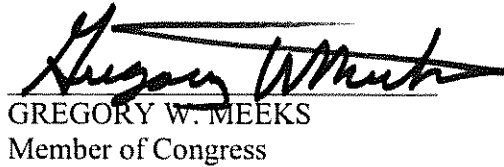
MIKE QUIGLEY  
Member of Congress



JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress



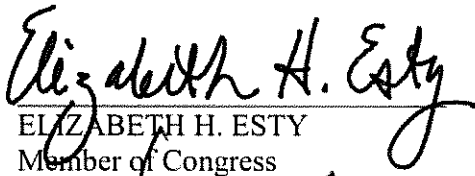
ALBIO SIRES  
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS  
Member of Congress



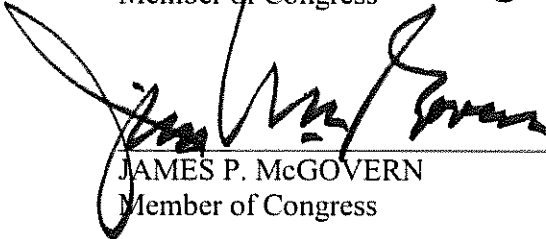
ERIC SWALWELL  
Member of Congress



ELIZABETH H. ESTY  
Member of Congress



CHRIS SMITH  
Member of Congress



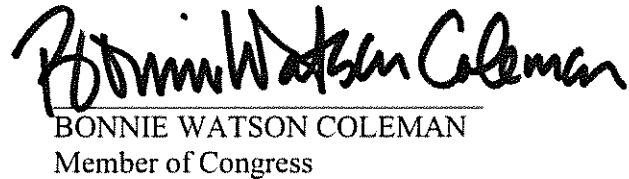
JAMES P. McGOVERN  
Member of Congress



ROBERT J. WITTMAN  
Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM  
Member of Congress



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN  
Member of Congress



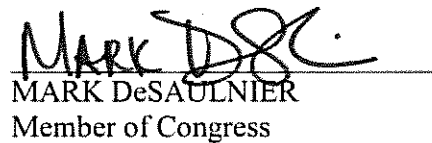
RANDY HULTGREN  
Member of Congress



CHERI BUSTOS  
Member of Congress



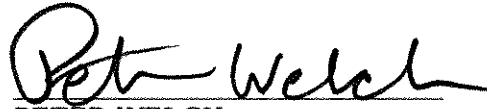
ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Member of Congress



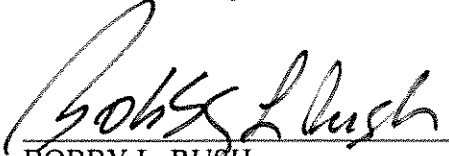
MARK DeSAULNIER  
Member of Congress



BOBBY SCOTT  
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress



BOBBY L. RUSH  
Member of Congress



LEE ZELDIN  
Member of Congress



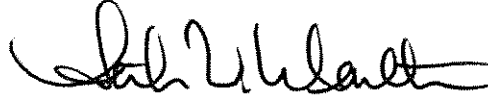
STEVE ISRAEL  
Member of Congress



YVETTE D. CLARKE  
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON  
Member of Congress



SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress