

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

February 9, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Congratulations on your confirmation as Secretary of Transportation. We look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead to improve our nation's transportation system toward multiple goals related to the climate crisis, safety, jobs, and economic opportunity.

We applaud President Biden's emphasis on addressing climate change and the ability for federal transportation policies to create jobs while also reducing carbon pollution. We write to encourage this work and ask that you urgently restore the national performance measure on carbon pollution from tailpipe greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on the National Highway System (the "GHG measure") that the Trump Administration repealed in 2018. Last Congress, the House demonstrated its support by including a requirement for a similar GHG performance measure in H.R. 2, the "Moving Forward Act".

First promulgated in 2017 pursuant to MAP-21's performance management requirements, the GHG measure would have required state and local officials to provide consistent information on the percent change in tailpipe carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from the reference year 2017. Officials were then required to set performance-based targets and regionally appropriate solutions to achieve these targets.<sup>1</sup>

As you know, transportation is now the largest source of greenhouse gases in the United States, responsible for nearly 30% of our nation's total emissions.<sup>2</sup> On-road vehicles account for over 80% of transportation emissions, a share that will continue to increase with low gas prices.<sup>3</sup> By 2045 our transportation system is expected to support 70 million more users and nearly 50% more freight volume.

We cannot effectively solve the climate crisis or its negative environmental justice outcomes without reducing emissions from transportation, and we cannot make progress toward emissions reductions without a program to measure and report on performance. Unfortunately, the Trump

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Environment/air\\_quality/conformity/highlights/high0618.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Environment/air_quality/conformity/highlights/high0618.cfm)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/inventory-us-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-sinks>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/fast-facts-transportation-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

Administration took us in the wrong direction by repealing the GHG measure rule in 2018. We urge you to move quickly to reinstate the measure and empower State DOTs and MPOs to make well-informed decisions and plans.

In addition to reinstating the GHG measure for tailpipe emissions, we hope that some of your first steps on climate change as Secretary of Transportation will improve the methods and procedures for accounting for the climate and environmental justice impacts of our transportation decisions and investments. For too long, our decision-making processes have failed to thoroughly or accurately consider infrastructure projects' impacts on land use development and induced travel demand, leading to projects that create more congestion, induce more driving, increase overall pollution with higher concentrations in communities of color, and produce other adverse consequences. We urge you to use your leadership of the Department of Transportation to upgrade outdated approaches and refine our evaluations of infrastructure alternatives.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to collaborating with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



---

Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



---

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

---

/s/

Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator

---

/s/

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

---

/s/

Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

---

/s/

Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

---

/s/

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

---

/s/

Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Marie Newman  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress