

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 26, 2019

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We write to bring attention to a long-standing problem with federal transportation funding: the flawed and outdated apportionment of highway funding that has resulted in Texas standing alone as the last "donor" state. Relative to the federal highway gas taxes that Texans pay, we have historically received a disproportionately small share of federal transportation funding.

By the will of Texas voters, we have added long-term state transportation funding solutions that dedicate new state transportation dollars to build more roads and improve our existing infrastructure without raising taxes, fees, tolls or debt. The Texas voters overwhelmingly supported these increases on two different statewide propositions by over 80 percent. Although this is a giant stride to ensuring that Texas infrastructure can keep up with our growth, our work is not done.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, in FY 2019, Texas remains the only "donor" state, when considering funds contributed directly to the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund versus apportionments received. In fact, Texas only receives 95 cents back for every dollar it sent to Washington in federal fuel taxes. Texas contributed 11.17 percent of all federal fuel taxes paid into the Highway Trust Fund, yet only received back 8.95 percent of the total apportionments, equating to just an 80 percent return on a percentage basis. By this calculation, Texas is shortchanged by up to \$940 million in FY 2019. This imbalance is exacerbated by the fact that when Congress last developed funding formulas, 2000 Census data was used to calculate funding. In 2000, the Texas population was 20 million. However, our population has grown nearly 50 percent and is now estimated at over 29 million. These metrics must be brought current. Without using current data, we simply fail to have a true formula distribution.

As Congress continues discussions on new infrastructure legislation, we hope that a fair, equitable and logical approach to federal transportation funding is considered.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and for your continued service on behalf of our nation on transportation issues.

Sincerely,



JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator



TED CRUZ
United States Senator



EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress


SYLVIA GARCIA
Member of Congress


VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress


LOUIE GOHMERT
Member of Congress


HENRY CUELLAR
Member of Congress


PETE OLSON
Member of Congress

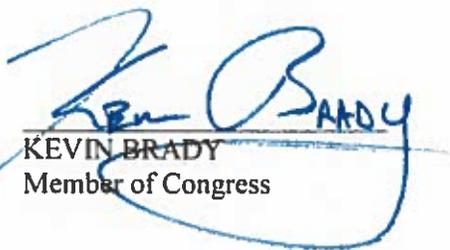

MAC THORBERRY
Member of Congress


JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress


DAN CRENSHAW
Member of Congress


RANDY WEBER
Member of Congress


VERONICA ESCOBAR
Member of Congress


KEVIN BRADY
Member of Congress


MICHAEL MCCAUL
Member of Congress

Richard Cloud

MICHAEL CLOUD
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela

FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress

Ron Williams

ROGER WILLIAMS
Member of Congress

Van Taylor

VAN TAYLOR
Member of Congress

K. Michael Conaway

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey

MARC VEASEY
Member of Congress

John Carter

JOHN CARTER
Member of Congress

Will Hurd

WILL HURD
Member of Congress

Ron Wright

RON WRIGHT
Member of Congress

Al Green

AL GREEN
Member of Congress

Lance Gooden

LANCE GOODEN
Member of Congress

M.C.

Bill Flores

BILL FLORES
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher

LIZZIE FLETCHER
Member of Congress

Brian Babin

BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant

KENNY MARCHANT
Member of Congress

Colin Allred

COLIN ALLRED
Member of Congress

Chip Roy

CHIP ROY
Member of Congress

John Ratcliffe

JOHN RATCLIFFE
Member of Congress

Kay Granger

KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress

Michael C. Burgess

MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D.
Member of Congress

Jodey C. Arrington

JODEY C. ARRINGTON
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett

LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress