

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL
ALEC

June 28, 2011

The Honorable Sandy Adams
United States House of Representatives
216 Cannon House Office Building
1st and Independence Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20515-0924

Dear Representative Adams:

On behalf of the over 2,000 state legislators who are members of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), I urge you to support current legislative measures that will empower states to manage gas tax dollars without federal interference. This concept is explicitly laid out in the enclosed ALEC policy resolution entitled "ALEC's Recommendation for 2009 Transportation Reauthorization" and is in keeping with our limited government guiding principle. As an ALEC Congressional Alumnus, your support on this issue would be most appreciated.

Congress has been a poor steward of highway gasoline tax revenues. A Government Accounting Office (GAO) Report recently concluded that "Large increases in federal expenditures for transportation in recent years have not commensurately improved system performance." Additionally, Highway Trust Fund (HTF) outlays have exceeded revenues for the past few years resulting in the need for Congressional bailouts of the HTF. Originally intended solely for highway projects, Congress has continued to expand eligible programs to include bike paths, landscaping and even transportation museums.

In addition to transportation mandates and federal administrative costs, other federal laws hamper state transportation projects. These laws have led to billions in additional costs and delays that have prompted 39 of the 50 states along with the District of Columbia to eschew federal funds for certain projects because of the mandates tied to federal funding.

The State Highway Flexibility Act as it is currently written will remedy these concerns giving states flexibility to encourage innovative and cost-effective approaches to addressing infrastructure challenges without undue federal interference. This flexibility for the states is especially important to an organization like ALEC that holds that our states are the ultimate policy laboratories. A Senate version will be introduced in the US Senate in the coming days.

Many thanks for your consideration, and I invite you to contact me or ALEC's Director of International and Federal Relations, Karla Jones with any questions or comments.

Very respectfully,



Representative Noble Ellington
2011 ALEC National Chairman
District 20, Louisiana House of Representatives