

June 23, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
361 A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Speaker, Minority Leader Boehner, Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

The Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG) urges Congress to act as soon as possible to address the impending funding shortfall in the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund.

The Administration has estimated that the Highway Account will have a deficit over \$3 billion in FY2009. This initial shortfall, if not addressed in a timely manner by Congress, will have a devastating impact upon the actual investment in the nation's already stressed highways, roads and bridges. Due to the lag between state obligations and federal outlays, spending for highway programs by states could be reduced by over one-third. That outcome would impede states' ability to continue planning and funding critical highway programs and could jeopardize hundreds of thousands of jobs. These jobs and subsequent economic activity which would result from increased mobility are particularly important in this time of economic stress for our nation.

Proposals to fix the Highway Trust Fund are currently before Congress. We urge you to act promptly to address this critical problem in the short term so that states, as they begin their 2009 fiscal year, can move forward with critical highway investments, confident that the federal funding commitments made under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) are assured.

We urge Congress to act swiftly on bipartisan legislation to eliminate the impending Highway Trust Fund shortfall.

Sincerely,

/o.s./

Jim Douglas  
Chair  
Governor of Vermont

/o.s./

David A. Paterson  
Vice-Chair  
Governor of New York

/o.s./

Jon S. Corzine  
Lead Governor – Transportation  
Governor of New Jersey