

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 8, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write in strong opposition to the U.S. Department of Transportation's proposed rule repealing the national performance measure on carbon pollution from tailpipe greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on the National Highway System (*Docket No. FHWA-2017-0025*), also known as the "GHG measure." The GHG measure requires that state and local officials provide consistent information to measure carbon pollution from on-road mobile sources and set performance-based targets to find unique solutions that work for their regions.

One of the hallmarks of "The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (Pub. L. 112-141), or MAP-21, was the establishment of a national performance- and outcome-based program for State Departments of Transportation (State DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to invest resources that will enable progress toward seven national performance goals. One of the goals established in MAP-21 is environmental sustainability, which seeks "to enhance the performance of the transportation system while protecting and enhancing the natural environment." Repealing the GHG measure inhibits the ability of decision makers to properly make progress toward this national goal.

As you know, the transportation sector is one of the largest and fastest-growing sources of GHG emissions in the United States, responsible for nearly 30% of the United States' total emissions. On-road vehicles account for over 80% of transportation emissions, a share that will continue to increase given that low gas prices are expected to prevail and vehicle miles traveled are expected to increase. As we plan for the demands of a transportation system that is expected to have 70 million more people and nearly 50% more freight volume by 2045, a GHG performance measure is critical for State DOTs and MPOs to accurately determine the type of investments needed. Without this measure, State DOTs and MPOs will be planning based on an incomplete picture of the system.

We urge you to reconsider your proposed rulemaking and allow State DOTs and MPOs to fully understand and plan for the transportation challenges of the future. Thank you and best regards.

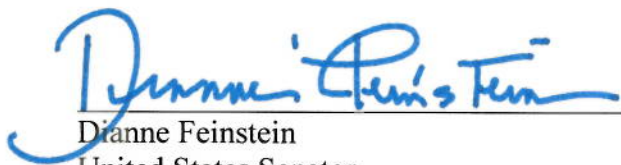
Sincerely yours,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



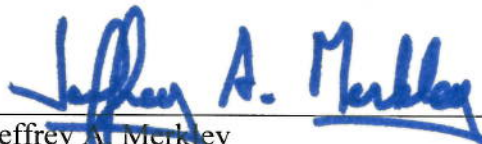
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



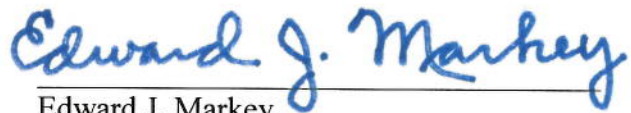
Al Franken
United States Senator



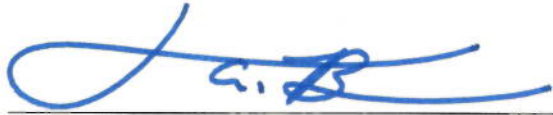
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



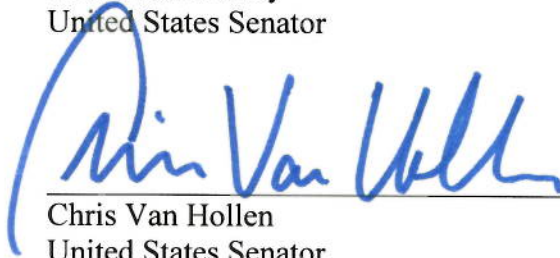
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



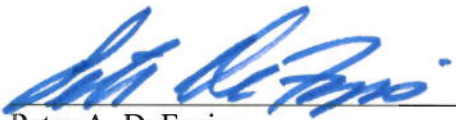
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



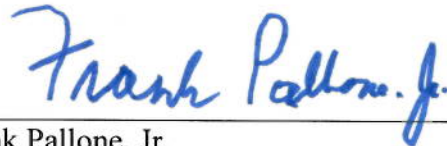
Peter A. DeFazio
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



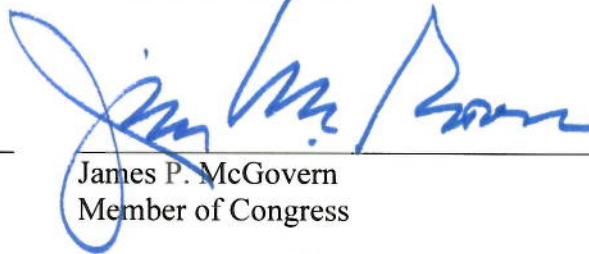
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



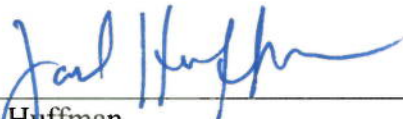
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



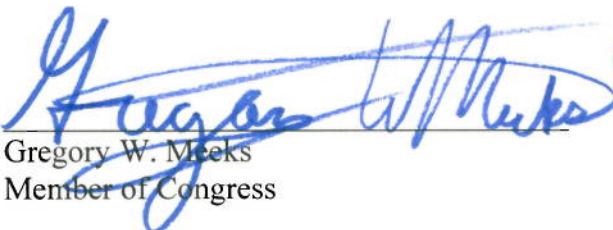
Zoe Lofgren
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Carol Shea-Porter

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Carolyn B Maloney

Carolyn Maloney
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Daniel Lipinski

Daniel W. Lipinski
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Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky
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Frederica Wilson

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Ko Khanna

Ko Khanna
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Kurt Schrader

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Raúl M Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans

Dwight Evans
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James R. Langevin

James R. Langevin
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Salud O. Carbajal

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Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



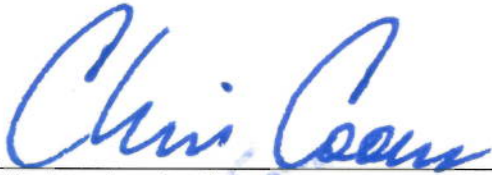
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



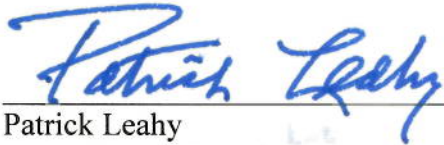
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator