



April 21, 2010

The Honorable Melissa Bean
U.S. Congresswoman
432 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bean:

It has come to our attention that discussions regarding climate change legislation may include increased taxation of motor fuels with the proceeds used for non-transportation purposes. The Transportation for Illinois Coalition strongly opposes any scheme that would divert traditional transportation user fees for any purposes other than funding transportation.

We think an increase in motor fuel taxes is appropriate and important revenue source for funding needed transportation infrastructure maintenance and improvements. Any attempt to increase these fees for non-transportation purposes will jeopardize the nation's ability to adequately maintain and enhance the transportation network upon which our economy depends. The linkage between the federal motor fuel tax and infrastructure investments is critical and must be protected in order to secure reliable funding for transportation.

The nation's transportation infrastructure needs are far greater than our current ability to pay for this investment. At current levels, the gas tax is not keeping pace with the need for maintenance and enhancement of our highways and transit systems.

This year, as Congress considers the much-needed multi-year authorization of the Surface Transportation Act, the biggest obstacle is identifying adequate funding to pay for it. Traditional transportation user fees, like the motor fuel tax, are logical sources for this funding, and should be used only for this purpose.

Sincerely,

Michael Kleinik
Director, Chicago Laborers District Council-LMCC
TFIC Co-Chair

Douglas L. Whitley
President, Illinois Chamber of Commerce
TFIC Co-Chair