



May 25, 2010

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator  
309 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

On behalf of the more than 70 organizations that are members of the Transportation for Illinois Coalition, we are writing to urge you to oppose a provision in the climate change legislation proposed by Senators John Kerry and Joseph Lieberman that would direct billions of dollars in traditional transportation user fees away from the transportation infrastructure investment for which these fees are intended. At a time when the Highway Trust Fund is limping along with insufficient revenue to keep pace with the need for investment in our aging network of highways and transit systems, Congress should be considering user fee increases directed *to the Highway Trust Fund, rather than away from this Fund*. The money is needed to prevent further deterioration of our infrastructure.

A modern and well-maintained network of highways, transit and rail systems is the economic backbone of our nation. If we neglect this economic engine, we risk losing the competitive advantage we currently enjoy in the global marketplace. Please urge your colleagues in the Senate to reconsider the motorist user fee diversion that is currently contemplated in the climate change discussions.

Sincerely,

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

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